

BARRE GAZETTE

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Rep. Berthiaume and selectmen discuss cable access

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

BARRE – After some technical difficulties, state Rep. Donald Berthiaume joined the board of selectmen's virtual meeting Jan. 4.

Selectman chair Gregory O'Sullivan invited Berthiaume to the meeting to discuss cable access issues in town. O'Sullivan said the board had no success with

the cable company for a reasonable solution. The estimated cost to run cable to the last four or five roads in town without cable was \$700,000 to \$800,000. The cable company said there was nothing in the town contract, which coerces them to run any cable unless the road has a minimum density of ten houses per mile.

Berthiaume said in his experience he negotiated a contract

twice when he was a selectman in Spencer. He said cable companies are historically the hardest to deal with because they kind of have a monopoly. The contracted cable company owned all the wires. It would be hard to get another cable provider to provide serve as the company would have to rent the current company's wires, making the cost prohibitive.

Selectman Dylan Clark asked

if the Massachusetts Broadband Institute would have any funding.

Berthiaume said he was working on MBI funds with the former town administrator, but Barre did not qualify because of population demographics. He said he would look to see if there were any changes in the regulations. Hardwick and New Braintree received funds from the MBI program. Joshua Smith of the Cable Advisory Committee

said the board could invite Petersham Broadband Committee to speak with the Barre selectmen. Petersham, previously an unserved community, did a broadband initiative.

Berthiaume requested a list of the roads that weren't serviced; who owns the poles on those roads National Grid or Verizon, sending him all questions from selectmen and residents. He said he would try

to find the answers and get back to the board. The town administrator, Jessica Sizer, will email him a copy of the PEG contract.

Smith said PEG funding has been very helpful for the town. PEG funding is paid by the subscribers so anything above and beyond PEG fund, the cable company was difficult to negotiate.

See BARRE, page 5

Local groups make effort to rename Quabbin Visitors Center



Three local groups are working to rename the Quabbin Visitors Center in honor of Les and Terry Campbell, who were Belchertown residents.

Committee formed to rename 'Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitors Center'

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

BELCHERTOWN – Three local groups are spearheading an effort to memorialize two members of the community who were instrumental in the establishment of the Quabbin Visitor's Center – Leslie and Terry Campbell.

Members of the Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists, Friends of Quabbin and Quabbin Photo Group have formed the Les and Terry Campbell Memorial Committee. The group published its first article in the Friends of the Quabbin winter newsletter explaining how and why the group

intends to rename the visitors center.

The group hopes to put up new signage inside and outside the building displaying the new moniker "The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitors Center."

Following Terry Campbell's death in 2004 and Les Campbell's in September 2020, the committee feels the timing is right to rename the visitors center.

Friends of the Quabbin Editor and member of the memorial committee, Paul Godfrey said the groups formed the memorial committee shortly after Les Campbell's death.

"For most of us, renaming the visitors center in (the Campbell's) honor was a no brainer," said Godfrey. "However, that doesn't mean it's automatic. We have to build an effort and we need support."

He said the group strives to

continue teaching people about the Quabbin, the previous towns that were flooded to make the reservoir and the variety of nature in the park.

"The Quabbin is a natural area that is mostly left to itself," Godfrey said. "Our efforts have been to educate people that it's not just water or this beautiful environment. It's about historic preservation. People were forced to move from their homes."

Godfrey said the aim of the committee is to change the signs on two of the doors as well as add a tribute to the couple inside of the visitors center.

"Additionally, we would like to include a plaque that briefly summarizes who Les and Terry were to visitors of the Quabbin Visitors Center, which will permanently teach all visitors how this wonderful resource was imagined and created. All costs of these new signs



Terry and Les Campbell helped to create the Quabbin Visitors Center at the Quabbin Reservoir as well as its supporting organization, the Friends of the Quabbin.



Les Campbell in his studio in July 2020 looking through his photographs, before he died in Sept. 2020.

will be borne by the aforementioned groups which Les founded: Friends of Quabbin, Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists, and Quabbin Photo Group," wrote Annie Tiberio in the newsletter.

In his tribute to Les Campbell, Godfrey wrote that Les Campbell was born in Ware in August of 1925.

See VISITOR CENTER, page 6

COVID-19 vaccine forms available

Residents to be notified when available

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

NORTH BROOKFIELD – At the SelectBoard meeting of Jan. 19, Chairman Dale Kiley said he spoke with Trevor Bruso, of the Board of Health, about the possibility of having North Brookfield as a COVID-19 vaccination site.

The Board of Health is working with Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, and hopes to utilize their mobile unit. People interested in receiving the vaccine when it becomes available to the town, can fill out a Google Doc form that is linked on the town website.

A resident asked how senior citizens would be made aware of any updates if they do not have access to computers. Kiley said a CodeRED call would also go out to residents that have signed up for it. Kiley said that anyone

that is having difficulty signing up for CodeRED can contact Administrative Assistant Ashley Barre or Town Clerk Tara Hayes.

Schools

Kiley said that the school needs to upgrade their air purifiers and ultra violet rooftop light bar for its HVAC system. The cost of the upgrade and the UV light bar is \$43,108.31. The school is also seeking funds to cover the cost of speech therapy, which is \$624.98. Both amounts were approved.

Chapter 90

The Town Farm Road project was approved for \$200,00 with 100% reimbursement, has currently expended a total of \$27,000. The work completed on the road includes rebuilding a catch basin and reclaiming to a fine grade with calcium. The now unpaved road is smooth, and selectmen were unsure if more work needed to be done on it. Kiley asked if the project were completed, could the remaining funds be used to do work on Mad Brook Road or Tucker Cross

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 5

Selectmen support Ware River Park grant application

By Paula Ouimette
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – At its virtual meeting Monday, Cynthia Henshaw, executive director of the East Quabbin Land Trust, and William Zinni, of the Conservation Commission, presented the Board of Selectmen with an application for the 2021 Mass Trail Grant to make improvements to Ware River Park in Gilbertville. Selectmen approved providing a letter of support for the Conservation Commission application for the 2021 Mass Trail Grant Program.

Ware River Park encompasses three different tracts of land acquired by the town in the 1990s with the assistance of EQLT. It is

about 10 acres, spanning from the gazebo all the way to the former Dunroamin Country Club property. Ware River Park also features the Gilbertville Fitness Trail, which is having erosion problems and an abundance of invasive plants. Many large trees will need to be removed, some of which were damaged by gypsy moths. Henshaw said they would also like to improve the existing canoe launch. The Thompson parcel, which is the tract closest to the former golf course, will have a trail and meadow, and needs a formal parking area.

Henshaw said the grant money will be primarily focused on trail access and removing invasive

See HARDWICK, page 6

Polus Center receives workforce grant

BOSTON – Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) joined Representative Susannah Whipps (I-Athol) and the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development in announcing that the Polus Center for Social & Economic Development has been awarded a grant through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund in the amount of \$199,998.

Located in Petersham, the Polus Center has more than 35 years of experience designing human service programs and promoting new opportunities for persons with disabilities and victims of conflict in the United States and throughout the world. Today, their primary work in Massachusetts is to help people with disabilities gain the skills, credentials, career-support and work opportunities to help them find competi-

tive employment.

Gobi said of the grant announcement, "Senator Ken Donnelly was a colleague of mine before losing his life to cancer. He would be thrilled to know that the Polus Center was receiving this award named in his memory. The Polus Center makes a difference in the lives of those injured and touched by violence as well as supporting people with special challenges. These grants will help with individual success and strengthen our communities. I congratulate the Center and thank them for all they do" Representative Whipps said on the award, "I'm very happy to work with Senator Gobi to advocate for organizations, like Polus Center, which do so much to promote productivity through inclusion and understanding."

The center is a recipient of the Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success Grant for

Expanded Capacity & Employment Program Performance. This funding opportunity seeks to support additional seat capacity in ongoing sector-based employment programs, which provide training and job placement/retention services to Massachusetts residents, who are unemployed. They will be using these grant funds to provide training and placement services to prepare unemployed participants for Pharmacy Technician positions.

Their grant partners include: CVS Health, Walgreens, Thriv Consulting, MassHire North Central Workforce Board, MassHire Central Region Workforce Board, MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board, MassHire North Central Career Center and MassHire Worcester Career Center and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. To learn more about the grant announcement, people may email Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

Fishermen venture out on Long Pond



Ice fisherman ventured out onto the ice at Long Pond in Rutland Sunday, Jan. 24. The weather was cold and windy, but it did not stop fishermen trying their luck at a favorite, local fishing spot.

Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer



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News of the Towns



Round Town

Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Nature club to hold Valentine Day walk

The Ware River Nature Club will hold a Valentine’s Day walk, Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with location to be announced. The walk will be held weather permitting. During the walk, participants will keep an eye out for winter birds and mammal tracks and sign.

Depending upon the number of participants, the nature club will select a location that provides opportunity for physical distancing. Mask protocol will be followed. People may bring binoculars, cameras, snacks and beverages if they wish. Number of participants will be limited. Pre-register at warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com to receive directions and updates. Plans may change with regard to weather and trail conditions.

Nomination papers available for town election

Town clerk, Ellen Glidden listed information on the annual town election set for April 5. Nomination papers are available to run at the Town Clerk’s Office located at the Henry Woods Building (basement) until 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb 11. MGL C. 53, §9A. Positions on the ballot include: moderator one-year term, board of selectman three-year term, board of assessors three-year term, board of health three-year term, water commissioner three-year term, sewer commissioner three-year term, Barre Housing Authority five-year term, Felton Field Commissioner three-year term, library trustees two positions three-year terms, planning board associate member one-year term, planning board five-year term and Quabbin Regional School Committee members two positions three-year terms.

Nomination papers must be returned back to the Town Clerk’s Office for certification of signatures by the Board of Registrars no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Any papers received after the deadline will be accepted late and will not be certified. MGL C. 53, §7. The last day to register to vote for this election will be 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16 MGL C. 53, §26, 28.

Questions regarding voter registration or the election should be directed to Ellen Glidden, Town Clerk at 978-355-2504, extension 5.

Ware River Nature Club to hold Valentine Day walk

BARRE – The Ware River Nature Club will hold a Valentine’s Day walk, Feb. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with location to be announced.

The walk will be held weather permitting. During the walk, participants will keep an eye out for winter birds and mammal tracks and sign. Depending upon the number of participants, the nature club will select a location that provides opportunity for physical distancing. Mask protocol will be followed. People may bring binoculars, cameras, snacks and beverages if they wish. Number of participants will be limited.

Pre-register at warerivernatureclub@yahoo.com to receive directions and updates. Plans may change with regard to weather and trail conditions.

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Annual railroad show will chug along virtually this year

Ahmerst Virtual Show Preview

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER – Regular visitors of the annual Amherst Railway Show are in luck. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual show is still scheduled to take place and can be viewed from the comfort and safety of home.

David Royce, treasurer of the Amherst Railway Society, said traditionally, during the last weekend of January, the annual show gets about 20,000 visitors to the Eastern States Exposition – aka “the Big E” – train show.

In addition to the exhibits, all regular in-person meetings have been replaced by virtual show and tell programs and other events to abide by the COVID-19 pandemic safety guidelines.

On the weekend of the show, Jan. 30-31, anyone interested can visit amherstrail.org, where there will be vendors and manufacturers, such as Rapido Trains Inc. showcasing new products.



Courtesy photo

The Covid-19 pandemic will not derail the annual Amherst Railway Society show at the Big E.

Navigating to individual sites rom there will be rewarding for those looking to invest in their rail-oriented pastime.

“They’ll be giving great discounts to people who want to go back to their website,” said Royce.

“Right now, we have 75 different vendors that have signed up.”

What Royce said he is looking forward to with this upcoming show is that it will serve as a way to promote model railroads, assist the vendors and manufacturers, as well as people who are excited and looking forward to seeing what’s new and avail-

able. Royce also wants anyone interested in attending the show for both days to know that it’s free to attend.

“We are a nonprofit corporation,” said Royce. “We’re not opposed to donations, but it is free.”

On Jan. 30, the virtual show will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the second day. For more information., visit the railways society’s website or their Facebook page.

Anyone who is interested in potentially becoming a member of the railway society is welcome.

Town clerk announces town election information

BARRE – Town clerk, Ellen Glidden listed information on the annual town election set for April 5. The following people toke out nomination papers. Papers have not been returned unless noted.

They included:
Moderator for one-year Joshua E. Smith, 80 Pleasant St., candidate for re-election
Board of Selectmen for 3-year term

John F. Carbone, 280 Hardwick Road

Maureen M. Marshall, 840 Pleasant St.

Troy Lee Valardi, 287 Cole Road

Board of Assessors for 3-year term no papers out

Board of Health for 3-year term Michael B. Radesky, 21 Grove St. South (papers returned)

Water Commissioner for 3-year term Ronald A. Hosley, 169 Dana Road, candidate for re-election

Sewer Commissioner for 3 year term) John J. Chase, 120 Hardwick Road, candidate for

re-election (papers returned)

Barre Housing Authority Member for 5-year term Susan E. LaRose, 196 Mechanic St., candidate for re-election

Felton Field Commissioner for 3-year term Justin C. Pollard, 291 Loring Road

Library Trustees two positions for 3-year terms

David A. Deschamps, 481 Britton Rd East 2024 candidate for re-election (papers returned)

Cherie E. Benoit, 49 Nelson Way, candidate for re-election

Planning Board Associate Member for 1-year term

Frank W. LaRange, 711 South Barre Rd 2022

Anthony I. Mobilio, 414 North Brookfield Rd 2022

Planning Board for 5-year term Anthony I. Mobilio, 414 North Brookfield Rd 2026

Matthew D. Urban, 330 Williamsville Rd 2026

Quabbin Regional School Committee Member two positions for 3-year terms

David A. Deschamps,

481 Britton Rd East 2024 candidate for re-election (papers returned)

Stanley “Lee” J. Wolanin, 1118 Old Hardwick Road, candidate for re-election

Nomination papers are available to run for any of the above positions at the Town Clerk’s Office located at the Henry Woods Building (basement) until 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb 11. MGL C. 53, §9A.

Nomination Papers must be returned back to the Town Clerk’s Office for certification of signatures by the Board of Registrars no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Any papers received after the deadline will be accepted late and will not be certified. MGL C. 53, §7.

The last day to register to vote for this election will be 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16 MGL C. 53, §26, 28. Questions regarding voter registration or the election should be directed to Ellen Glidden, Town Clerk at 978-355-2504, extension 5.

Gobi's public accountancy bill signed

BOSTON – State Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) announced her bill, S.2942, An Act to Modernize Public Accountancy, has been signed into law by the governor, providing a series of critical technical updates to the commonwealth’s statutes governing the practice of public accountancy to further align it with national standards.

“I appreciate the advocacy of the CPAs and was glad to work with them to get a bill filed and passed into law that protects consumers and closes loopholes that

were damaging to the integrity of the profession,” Gobi said.

The bill contains several provisions that update the commonwealth’s statutes on the practice of Certified Public Accountants. The bill revises the definition of attest service to close loopholes that currently allow non-CPAs to perform attest services using the accounting professional’s standards. Additionally, it allows CPA firms to operate across state lines without having to register in each state, creating a level playing field for firms across the country.

The bill will also update the American Institute of Certified Public Accountancy’s code of professional conduct, bringing it up to date and making it consistent with the Uniform Accountancy Act and the Massachusetts Board of Public Accountancy. Lastly, the bill eliminates the requirement for the managing partners of accounting firms to be licensed CPAs.

For more information on the bill and its application to CPAs, please contact Gobi’s office via email at Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov.

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Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Frozen Assets deadline is Feb. 1

People can help support Hubbardston small businesses during the month of January by stopping in for Frozen Assets form. Grab a cup of coffee, maybe some yummy cookies or a muffin, dinner or lunch for the family, even a flat of eggs or some local honey while they fill out the guess form. January is always the hardest time of the year for a small business to get folks in the door. So here’s a chance to show not only town support but support for small businesses and show them that they are a much needed part of the community. Guess form donation is \$20 donation per guess form submitted, but the organizers will accept any and all donations given. This is what helps keep Special Events going in town. Deadline to enter is Feb.1. For more information people may check out the Special Events on the town of Hubbardston’s website at https://www.hubbardstonma.us/special-events.

COVID 19 update

Hubbardston is a “yellow” community according to the Jan. 21 MA DPH COVID-19 report. This means Hubbardston has less than or equal to 25 active cases, but more than 15. The current number of active cases in town is 25, an increase from the last report of 15. It is important to note that towns bordering Hubbardston, including Barre, Rutland, Gardner, Westminster and Templeton continue to be in a red status. Neighboring Princeton improved to a green status. Hubbardston has seen 102 cases since the start of the pandemic. More than 438 residents have been tested in the last 14 days with 25 of those residents reporting positive results. This is an increase in the town’s positivity level. Residents are reminded to wear masks in public, keep social distancing, consistently and effectively wash hands, and limit gatherings to state recommendations. The Hubbardston Board of Health would also like to inform residents of the following changes to the Governor’s previous COVID-19 related orders:

Effective Monday, Jan. 25t at 5 a.m. the Stay-at-Home Advisory for the hours of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. is rescinded. Effective Monday, Jan. 25 at 5 a.m., the Mandatory Early Closure of Businesses Order requiring certain businesses to close by 9:30 p.m. will be rescinded. Monday, Jan. 25 at 5 a.m., certain businesses and activities listed below may operate past 9:30 p.m. The 25% temporary capacity and gathering limits remain in place until 5 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 8.

Senior center

The Hubbardston Senior Center will be closed until April. At that point, the Council on Aging will review how things are going with the virus and plan accordingly. A council member will be checking the phone lines two or three times a week. The director, Claudia Provencal will be checking emails and Facebook every day. The drive through food and egg will still be in place on Thursday mornings. Masks will be in place properly and distancing will be followed.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Feb. 1.

Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Shepherd’s pie, carrots, peas, apple cinnamon grahams, pumpernickel bread

TUES. – Potato crunch fish, potatoes au gratin, mixed vegetables, tapioca/diet tapioca, marble rye bread, tartar sauce

WED. – Chicken cranberry salad, pasta salad, three bean salad, strawberry fruit cup, sandwich roll

THURS. – Turkey supreme, cranberry stuffing, roasted California blend, pear crisp, diet = pears, Italian bread

FRI. – Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, chuckwagon corn, fresh fruit, French bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert
**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

\$12.50 Each

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: Many meetings are closed to the public or will be held remotely.

BARRE

Cemetery Commission – Jan. 28 at 11 a.m.
Board of Selectmen – Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
QRSD Policy and Review/Reform Subcommittee – Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Feb. 3 at 1 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – Feb. 4 at 3 p.m.
Board of Health – Feb. 8 at 5 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.
Water Commission – Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
DPW Commission – Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.
Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.
Library Trustees – Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.
Sewer Commission – Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

HARDWICK

Personnel Committee – Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m.
Recycling Commission – Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – Feb. 8 at 6 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Wheelwright Water District – Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.
Council on Aging – Feb. 11 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Public Library – Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.
Gilbertville Water District – Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Agricultural Commission – Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.
Open Space Committee – Jan. 28 and Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Planning Board – Feb. 1, Feb. 4, Feb. 18 and at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.
Historic Commission – Feb. 6 at 10 a.m.
Board of Health – Feb. 9 and Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Feb. 12 at 10 a.m.
Open Space Committee – Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Selectboard – Jan. 26 at 6 p.m.
Open Space & Recreation Committee – Feb. 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.
Board of Health – Feb. 4 and Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.
Cemetery Commission – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

RUTLAND

Master Plan Steering Committee – Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing – Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

Given the current surge in COVID cases in the state, and with an abundance of caution for the health and safety of the cast and crew, Theatre at the Mount's live stream production of "Winter Wonderettes" is cancelled.

The Three County Fair, Northhampton, closed its office for the winter season and instituted staff cuts and furloughs to help the 202-year-old organization survive the extended shutdown of the fairgrounds due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The cuts will affect each staff member, and includes a fourteen percent salary reduction for senior management and staggered furloughs for all employees. Furloughs could be extended if the fairgrounds are unable to host postponed 2020 events in the spring, which include over a dozen different horse shows from April through October, plus a variety of concerts and festivals. The Three County Fair entered 2020 on solid ground after completing 2019 as its most successful year since horse racing ended at the fairgrounds in 2005, thanks to a widely attended Labor Day weekend fair, and another full slate of horse shows and festivals. But with reoccurring operational expenses and more than one million dollars in lost 2020 event revenue, the fair will run out of reserves sooner rather than later. The fair received a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Loan in mid-May, which has since been exhausted and forgiven by its lender and the SBA. For more information, people may visit www.3countyfair.com.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Cornerstone Bank announces new leadership

SOUTHBRIDGE – Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, has elevated two executives to new leadership roles effective Jan. 1. Todd Tallman, formerly the Bank President and Treasurer, assumes the role of Chief Executive Officer. Randal D. Webber, formerly Cornerstone's Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Lending Officer, will now serve as President. Both appointments were announced in the fall.

Of his appointment, new Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman said, "I am honored to assume the role of CEO and wish to thank the Cornerstone Bank Board of Directors for the trust they have placed in me. I'm excited and invigorated to continue the institution's legacy as a trusted community bank."

A seasoned financial professional and banking veteran, Tallman began his career as a certified public accountant before joining the banking world in 1998. First serving as Chief Financial Officer of Southbridge Savings Bank, he was promoted to President/CEO in 2014. Then, when Southbridge Savings Bank



Todd Tallman

and SpencerBANK merged in 2016 to form Cornerstone Bank, Tallman was named President and Treasurer. With a passion for enriching the lives of others and supporting his community, he serves on the board of several nonprofit organizations and is a past president of the United Way of Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton.

New President Randal Webber spoke highly of Tallman, his predecessor, recognizing the big shoes he must fill as he assumes his new role. "Todd has always been a strategic leader. I am honored to follow in his footsteps and build upon the strong foundation he



Randal D. Webber

laid as I assume the role of president."

Webber joined SpencerBANK in 2009 as Senior Vice President Chief Risk Officer, until being promoted to Executive Vice President, Chief Lending Officer in 2012. When Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2016, he was named Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer. Through each Executive-level role, he helped continue a growth trajectory in the bank's commercial and retail service and operations, particularly within its commercial portfolio. Webber currently serves on the board of the Worcester State University Foundation.

Hardwick Town Clerk lists election information

HARDWICK – Nomination papers are due back to the Board of Registrars Monday, Feb. 22. An earlier release had the incorrect date. The last day to file nomination papers with Town Clerk Ryan Witkos is Monday, March 8 by 5 p.m. The last day to object or withdraw nomination papers is Wednesday, March 10 at 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote for the April Annual Town Election is Tuesday, March 23 at 8 p.m. Voter registration on March 23, the last day, will be held from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Myron E. Richardson Building, 307 Main St., Gilbertville.

So far, all incumbents have taken out nomination papers with the exception of the following:

Nichole C. Bradway - Board of Health 3 years; Edward N. Kelly - K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee, who is not seeking re-election after decades of service on the school committee and Stanley D. White - Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee.

People, who took out nomination papers, are:

Selectman three-year term
Kenan P. Young, candidate for re-election
H. Robert Ruggles
Assessor three-year term
Kathryn W. Hosley, candidate for re-election
Board of Health three-year term
Judith Berg Kohn
Board of Health two-year term (unexpired term)

Planning Board three-year term

Erik L. Fleming, candidate for re-election

Eric W. Vollheim, candidate for re-election

K-12 Quabbin Regional School Committee three-year term

Paige Agricultural Fund Trustee five-year term

Paige Memorial Library three-year term

Christopher M. Buelow, candidate for re-election

Jennifer E. Garvey, candidate for re-election

Gilbertville-Wheelwright Water Pollution Sewer Commissioner three-year term

Kennan P. Young, candidate for re-election

H. Robert Ruggles

Second Chance receives \$8,000 Covid grant

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services was the recipient of an \$8,000 COVID-19 grant from the Banfield Foundation® to assist with the additional costs of operating during the pandemic.

Development Director Lindsay Doray says the nonprofit is grateful to the Banfield Foundation for their support during a very challenging year. "Second Chance helped over 40,000 pets again in 2020, despite the fact that some programs like spay and neuter services and vaccine clinics were on hold in the spring to conserve critical supplies. We could not let pets and pet owners down, so we kept our critical programs open throughout the entirety of 2020."

"We are still seeing an increased need at all our hospitals. This combined with the additional cost for supplies we need to keep everyone safe has been a serious challenge. This grant has helped us continue to serve the pets that need help most."

For more information on Second Chance and all the programs that help 40,000 a year, people may visit www.secondchanceanimals.org.

Second Chance is a nonprofit 501(c)3 tax exempt organization that began in 1999 in East Brookfield and relies solely on

donations from grants to operate. The organization operates an adoption center in East Brookfield, Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield, and Worcester. Second Chance helps over 40,000 pets a year through adoption, spay/neuter, veterinary care, community outreach, educational outreach programs, training, and a pet food pantry. For more information, visit Second Chance's website at www.secondchanceanimals.org.

Follow Second Chance on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/secondchanceanimals>

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is the belief

that all pets

deserve access

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Mask sales benefit BSER

Tabby Tashjian's mask store, Stony Bridge Farm, 1148 Turnpike Road, will continue to be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. She is donating all proceeds from the sale of her masks to Bay State Equine Rescue. There are many colors and sizes to choose. There are cotton cloth non-medical facemasks in pre-school, child, large child/small adult and adult sizes with pleated and adjustable ear styles. Masks are individually packaged and labeled for convenient, self-serve shopping and purchase in the garage. Cost is \$5 each; two for \$8; four for \$15 and six for \$20. She will have Valentines Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter/Springtime masks.

BOH

All businesses in Oakham are required to enforce mask/face covering requirements, as well as limit customers to ensure social distancing. No food or beverage should be consumed in any Oakham business by customers as there is not sufficient spacing to allow this more importantly, there are no businesses in Oakham currently licensed/permitted as a sit-down restaurant (take out only, which includes coffee and snacks). If people do not feel comfortable with the way the business is following safety protocols, they can decide whether to continue to frequent that establishment.

No church services

The Oakham Congregational Church's Church Council voted to suspend church services and Sunday School through the end of February due to the high COVID-19 cases in Oakham. Church council will decide when to hold indoor church services after that or continue the furlough depending on the COVID-19 numbers.

Cornerstone Bank makes \$54,000 donation to United Way

SOUTHBRIDGE – Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, announces its recent donation of \$54,196.62 to the United Way. This donation reflects an employee gift and matching contribution, which together exceeded this year's goal and last year's gift.

The United Way is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the educational, economic and healthcare of individuals in need. Cornerstone Bank's donation will support three, local United Way organizations: United Way of South Central Massachusetts, serving Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton; United Way of Webster Dudley and United Way of Central Massachusetts, which serves 30 cities and towns. Locally, these organizations help with food insecurity, childcare, medical needs, counseling, legal services and much more.

"I am so proud we were able to raise funds for such an impactful organization again this year," said Cornerstone Bank vice president/controller and United Way of South Central Massachusetts treasurer Scott Dungey. "The employees here at Cornerstone Bank are so generous with their time and resources to help the communities that we serve. Being on the United Way Board of Directors, I know these funds will go to help people that really need it, especially with how difficult the past year was for so many in our area."

"Cornerstone Bank has a deep-rooted commitment to giving back to the community," said Cornerstone Bank Chief Executive Officer Todd Tallman. "We are pleased to play a role in supporting the United Way on their valiant efforts to support the needs of people around the world, but especially those here in our own backyard."

PUBLIC NOTICE

RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2021.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2020 but may require some touch-up work in 2021:

Ware

Treatment Periods

February 1, 2021 – May 30, 2021	May 30, 2021 - Oct 16, 2021	Oct 16, 2021 – Dec 31, 2021
CST	Foliar	CST
Basal	CST	Basal
Dormant Stem	Basal	Dormant Stem
	Cut stubble	

*The exact treatment dates are dependent upon weather conditions and field crew progress.

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):

Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid, 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

Telephone: (508) 860-6282 or email: mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com

Opinion

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Do COVID-19 bonuses as income?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm 63 and still working, and I receive Social Security benefits. Because of COVID-19 my employer has been giving us a \$300 bonus, every three months. This will be \$1,200 for the year and it will put me over the \$18,240 earnings limit for this year. My question is, since these bonuses are COVID-19 related are they still considered earned income? My second question is, if I go over the limit does Social Security stop my check, even if it might be a portion of the check? Signed: Working During COVID-19

Dear Working: Whether your 2020 earnings (and those bonuses) put you over the annual earnings limit will depend upon how the bonuses are reported on your federal income tax return (or your W-2 if you aren't required to file). Your employer will send your W-2 earnings to the IRS which will, in turn, inform Social Security of your earnings. Social Security compares your 2020 W-2 earnings to the earnings limit to see if you exceeded the allowable limit. In other words, how your employer defines those COVID-19 bonuses and reports it to the IRS determines whether Social Security will count them toward the earnings limit. You should check with your employer's human resources department to see if your COVID-19 bonuses will be considered as taxable earnings reportable on your W-2.

If you exceed the limit, and you don't inform Social Security in advance that you did, they won't know about it until they receive your W-2 information from the IRS (sometime next year, after you file your income taxes). They will then send you a notification that you exceeded the limit and tell you how much you owe them, and they will want to recover \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). They'll give you the option to repay what they consider to be an overpayment in one lump sum, request a repayment plan or to have your Social Security benefits withheld for as many months as it takes for them to recover what you owe. Note they only withhold full months of benefits, not partial, so you could go several months without collecting any Social Security benefits until they recover what is owed.

The money they withhold because you exceeded the limit is not lost forever, because when you reach your full retirement age (66 ½ if you turned 63 in 2020) they will give you time credit for any months they withheld benefits. That means they will move your effective claim date forward by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will result in a small increase in your benefit amount. But you'll get that higher benefit for the rest of your life, enabling you to eventually recover the money they withheld because you exceeded the limit. And for your information, during the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA) the limit goes up and the penalty is less, and once you reach your FRA there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn while collecting benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

RODNEY

Not as easy catching up as before.
Seems there's always some unsuspected chore.

Still remember fireflies, the milkweed fun.
Giving me your turn, saying that I won.

Promising to be the friend that would always stay.
Not like the others, often they would stray.

Then came the whistle...pray tell?
Announcing dinner, how it broke the spell.

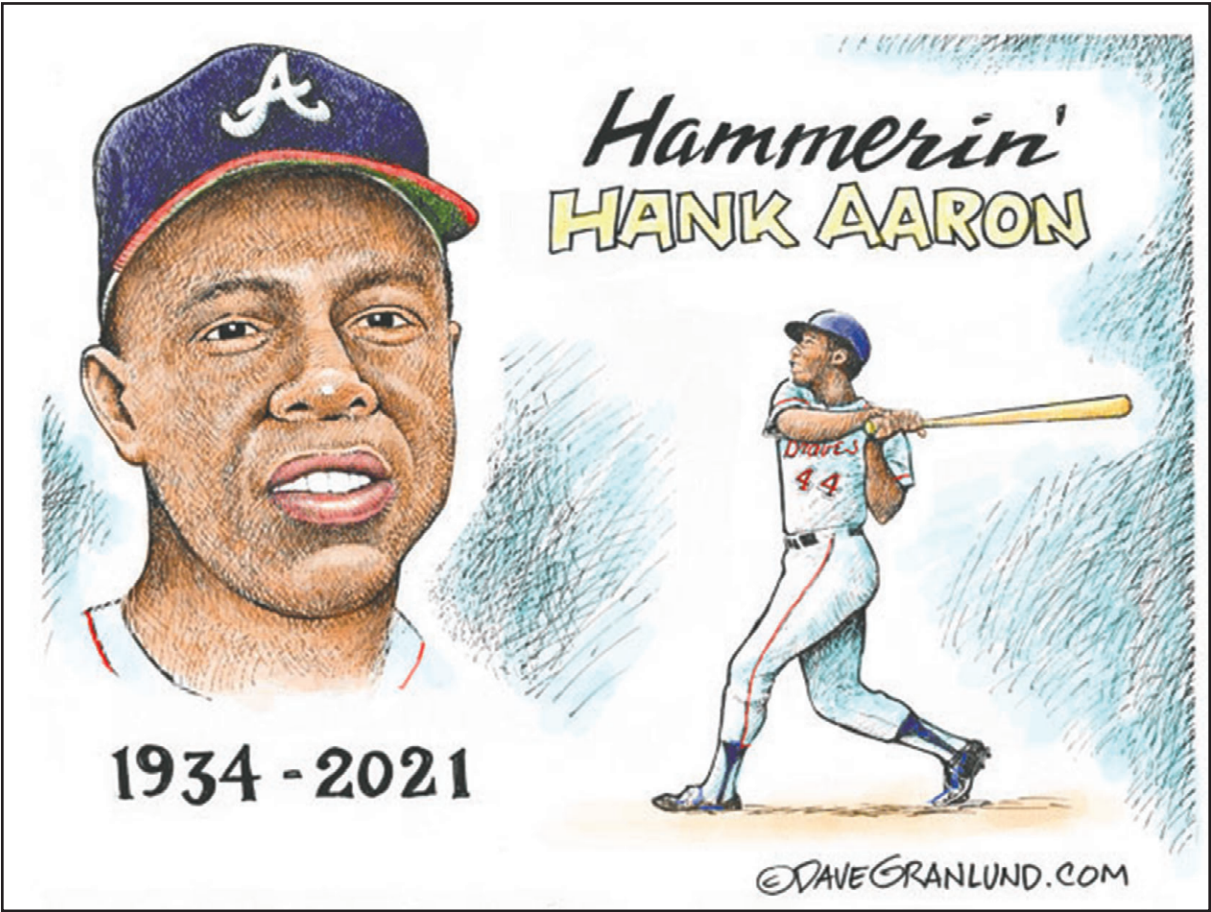
Ensured the best was "yet to be."
Rodney....I love that you are invisible to everyone,
but me.

– Patricia Masten

Have Something to Share?

Send your stories and photos to edowner@turley.com

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
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In Past Pages

5 years ago (Jan. 28, 2016)

The Barre Savings Bank and Fidelity Bank joined forces recently with gifts of \$1,000 from each to support the Barre Historical Society's ongoing renovations project. As announced earlier, the two institutions expect to complete plans for a merger under the Fidelity Bank charter during the second quarter, at which time a \$1.5 million community foundation will be established to provide support to non-profit organizations in the Barre, Paxton and Princeton area. "The Barre Historical Society's work to restore and archive its valuable collection of historic memorabilia is critical to preserving the town's story for the benefit of generations to come," said Fidelity Bank Chairman and CEO Edward Manzi, Jr. "Barre will soon be a prominent part of the Fidelity Bank family, and the Town's past, present, and future are as important to us as they have always been to Barre Savings Bank."

Michael and Michelle Pillsbury of Rutland, the proud parents of Michael J. Pillsbury, Jr., 18, announce his successful completion of eight-weeks basic training and graduation from the U.S. Coast Guard. Michael graduated with Romeo 191 and will be stationed on the famous class USCG Cutter Campbell in Kittery, Maine. Early missions include maritime patrol in Cape Cod and Islands, Canadian waters, the Caribbean and recently the Panama Canal and Costa Rica. He has brothers, Kory, Colin and Connor at home and a sister, Katelyn.

For the second time this season, the Eagle Hill swam in a tri-meet. This time they split in the meet, after losing both end two days earlier. They were 86-26 winners over Mustangs of The MacDuffie School from Granby, while falling to Bulldogs of The Bancroft School from Worcester, 71-66. Overall Eagle Hill had four first place finishes. Unlike a dual meet, where each team is assigned three lanes, even or odd, a tri-meet has the swimmer has just two lanes for each team and they are scored in head to head competition and is thus three meets. The swimmer get the points based upon where they finish overall. Bancroft, which took first in six events won against both teams. In addition to the 71-66 score over Eagle Hill, they also topped MacDuffie 78-28. As a coed meet, there were no separate heats for boys and girls. They all swam together. They meet got underway with the 200-medley relay. Bancroft took first with Dina Zayaruzny, Tyler Paula, Christy Magiacotti and Hoach Keates. Their 2:09.41 was two seconds faster than that of the Eagle Hill foursome of Lucas Dellaporta, Sam Burrough, Richard Kreuser and Will Prentice.

10 years ago (Feb. 3, 2011)

The Quabbin Wrestling team has had some very good results

LOOK BACK
Chair Project - 2016



Turley Publications File Photo

Seated on paper chairs in the front from left, are Matthew VanDyke, Anthony Robidoux and Ava Walker, and standing from left, Maddison Willigar, Jasmine Rocheleau, Sophie Kiley, Ashley Girouard and Isabella Quink.

on the mat at four tournaments over the past month. On Dec. 29-30, the varsity wrestlers participated in the Framingham Holiday Tournament, undoubtedly one of the toughest of the holiday wrestling tournaments. Senior Brandon Beauregard wrestling at 135 and Quinn Darcy at 189 took first place. Beauregard had a very competitive match for the first facing Nick Murphy from Lincoln Sudbury. Both Beauregard and Murphy are ranked in the top five in the state. Also finishing very strong were Kane and Hardaker who placed second at 140 and Henry McKenna placing third at 145. Freshman Royce Kelley at 112 and sophomore Dan Ludwig at 103 wrestled well to come in seventh place. Overall, the team placed eighth against 20-plus teams, which was very respectable against some very formidable schools. Coach Dick Hengst said he was very satisfied with the performance of the finalists.

Kathleen F. Brekka, second year student at the College of the Holy Cross, has been named to the Dean's List for the first semester of the 2010-11 academic year. She is the daughter of Kathleen and Clare Brekka of Hubbardston. She majors in English.

In a matter of a few days, April Brewer will be sitting in a mud hit with a thatched roof in Zambia, Africa. She will have no running water, no electricity and her main diet will consist of Nshima, a cornmeal based porridge. And, she will be arriving in the middle of monsoon season. Her main mode of transportation will be a bicycle, as infrastructure is very lackluster. Brewer said she will probably bike up to 20 to 30 kilometers a day. The 22-year-old smiles as she explains what her new living conditions will be for the next 27 months and says that she is actually looking forward to it. "I've always been an adventurous spirit. I love to try new things." Brewer is embarking on the trip as a Peace Corps volunteer.

25 years ago (Feb. 1, 1996)

Arie George emerged the best sailor of Pack 23 Cub Scouts in the recent regatta held in the American Legion Hall. A very close second was Raymond Russell. Capturing third and fourth were Jacob Buiwit and Alex Lent. In the same manner as the well-known Pinewood Derby, the boys construct little boats of very simple design and the "wind" is provided by the entrants as they carefully blow their creation down two long metal gutters in two-by-two elimination.

Members of the Barre Woman's Club will be in the American Legion Hall on Mechanic Street. Hostesses for the evening are Kathy Molesky, chairman, Linda Tartaglia, Arlene Betteridge, Michele Wronski, Margaret Mertzcic and Roberta Grandone.

Gilbert "Gib" Upham, age 95; will be featured on Cable Channel 16 on Feb. 5 and 12. This is the first a three-part series videotaped by Corry Trask. Mr. Upham is confined to his home on Old Hardwick Road now. Much of his time is devoted to remembering a past that includes living in all of this 20th century. His recollections and his scrapbooks provide interesting perceptions of living in the "not-so-good old says," according to Trask.

38 years ago (Feb. 3, 1983)

On Jan. 24, thirty-seven voters passed six of the seven warrant articles of the special town meeting. The meeting only took ten minutes.

Members of the George L. Thorng American Legion Post 404 of South Barre who participated in the Worcester County Council American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary March of Dimes were Reginald Franciose, Commander of Post 404, Joseph Giarusso, Chaplain

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Guest Column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

I have been having the greatest week with everything going nicely, but Missy has had a bad week. It seems everything she touches she either drops or it breaks or doesn't work. The biggest problem was with her sewing machine, but she finally got it working again.

As for me, I had another dream, but a good one. First, though, I should tell you about the bag under the bed from last week. It was a big disappointment, as there was nothing in it to roll. There was cloth, yarn, paper and a big ruler.

My dream, however, was a different matter. After settling down for my nap, I found myself and Missy in Florida with a friend, who needed help. How we got there, I have no idea. It seems the husband just died and she needed someone to take care of the house and the six cats. All the cats had to be outside the house, so the Mister had built a special boarded up place for all the cats and a corner with an umbrella for him to sit under and enjoy a pipe and the cats. There was a special house with three stories in another corner with holes to go in and out on the first floor and cat beds on the next two floors.

Boy, what a place. The food and potty areas had roofs over them, because in Florida they get a lot of rain. All the cats were neutered or spayed to help keep things under control. I seemed to fit in nicely and played their games. There was a bar on one side of the area with things dangling from it so when you batted them some would tinkle like a bell. There was a slide and a small see saw. I liked the see saw and the dangling area the best.

The next thing I remembered was rolling off the bed onto the floor at my own home. I was sure glad to be home.

Have a good week folks.

Love,
Gertrude



BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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BARRE GAZETTE

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Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

January is just about over and February is a short month so spring cannot be far behind? This is the time of the year we plan our gardens and order seeds. We remember what grew well last year and what didn't. Because we didn't have any aged manure to put in



My artificial tree is now decorated for Valentine's Day.

the gardens last year, some of the vegetables didn't grow well. This year Ken was given a load of aged manure for his 89th birthday by a dear friend, who has some cows that give off a nice present.

This week I have been trying to stay safe by staying home and water coloring, sewing penny rug mats. I also watched the inauguration while sewing the mats. It was an all day affair on the television, but I was able to put a dish in the oven during the commercials, which turned out rather delicious. This will be the recipe for this week.

INAUGURATION POT LUCK OVEN DISH

- Boneless chicken thighs
- Onions sliced
- Mushrooms, sliced
- Carrots peeled and slice
- Can of cream of chicken soup
- Sliced and peeled potatoes

Take a cast iron fry pan and spray with olive oil. Place all the vegetables and chicken in the fry pan and cover with the chicken soup. Bake in the oven for one hour. Easy and delicious.

On another occasion, I did the

same only using kielbasa instead of chicken and put some Brussels sprouts in the pan.

This and That At the Hubbardston Senior Center we were given some vanilla yogurt with our groceries so I made a couple of frappes using the yogurt and some of the canned fruit they gave us with a little milk. It was a nice lunch.

Ken has been burning some of the brush piles when the weather cooperated. One day, he had just got the pile burning and a snow-storm came and put out the fire. There is so much to burn and hopefully we can get it done before spring. Some of the brush piles are in my gardens. The wind and ice sure did a lot of damage to the pine trees this year.

We are still waiting for the vaccine and hopefully it will be available soon. I still try to call a couple of my senior friends each day to make sure they are still safe and healthy. Keep wearing your masks and wash them as needed. Authorities are saying to wear two masks now. They keep changing their minds. Bandanas do not work.

BARRE, continued from page 1

He said Barre's agreement with Charter did not force the town into having only one provider; it simply set up a bunch of terms for how Charter is to behave on the town's poles.

Quabbin District request

Selectmen voted two to one, with Matthew Urban opposed, to pay the lease for Quabbin Regional School District request for the expenditure of funds related to cover the lease of the HUDL FOCUS hi-def camera system in the Quabbin Regional High School gymnasium from P.E.G. Access funds.

The town administrator said since 2017 the board of selectmen released some PEG funds to cover the lease of this HUDL - hi-def camera system to cover athlet-

ic games along with events in the gymnasium including basketball games. The cost is \$3,000.

Selectman Urban said he was not against helping the school, but the board of selectmen has been talking about trying to get more and more of the towns Boards and Committees either on TV or create some BCTV YouTube link through Face book and such. He said the town might want to install cameras to cover DPW Commission meetings or add cameras to another location.

COVID-19 update

The town administrator said the town had a really big jump in cases the past week according to the Public Health Nurse. The town had 31 new cases, which meant it was still in the red as a high- risk community.

License renewals

Selectmen unanimously

approved renewals on common victualler, entertainment and motor vehicle licenses in three separate motions. Seasonal businesses will renew their licenses at a later date.

Next week the First Responders in Town are eligible to receive the first dose of the vaccine. A meeting was held last week to start planning on the set up at the Quabbin Regional High School as a vaccine distribution center. Right now they are in the preliminary discussion as to what the costs are going to be and what the State is going to cover, also what the capacity they have to distribute these vaccines. It's being pushed on the small towns like Barre that it is done as a regional effort distributing the vaccines. It's been really difficult with the holidays to order the tents so the order hasn't gone through yet. Now that the holidays are past things will start to move forward.

NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

Road. The Board signed off on the \$27,000 expenditure.

Open Space

A public forum for the Master Plan: Open Space will be held via Zoom on Thursday, Feb. 4. The Zoom link will be posted on the town website and on the board.

SelectBoard Clerk John Tripp said that he ordered gates for the rail trail and expects them to arrive by the end of the month. He said they will need to be painted yellow but cannot be installed until the ground is thawed. Kiley said there is a rail trail grant available and the deadline is in February. He said they applied for it last year but did not receive it. He will apply again this year. Money from the grant can

be used for signage among other things.

Town Beach, Playground committees

Tripp asked what had become of the Town Beach Committee. Barre said the residents appointed to the committee have not seen the town clerk to be sworn in. A resident attending the meeting turned in her paperwork for a position on the committee. Tripp said this is a three-person committee and they now only have one.

Tripp said the town is supposed to be working with East Brookfield regarding the beach to address issues such as erosion, parking/traffic and trash. He said North Brookfield Police alternated patrol with East Brookfield Police this past summer. Kiley said there is money in the budget for the beach, now they just need a committee to

use the money.

Tripp said they also need members for the Playground Committee, as the ball fields at the school and the track are in poor condition. He said the grass is overgrown and the baseball diamonds are no longer visible. Tripp said the track on the Common needs to be replaced. He said given its proximity to the senior center, it would make a great place for seniors to exercise.

Plowing damage

Selectmen reviewed the proposed snowplow damage mailbox policy. Kiley and Tripp noted that changes they had wanted had been made and approved the policy.

A resident wanted to congratulate and thank the town's Decorating Committee for making the town look so festive for the holidays.

Column

Indoor seed sowing just like the pros do

My first experience with seed sowing involved an egg carton, some potting soil and a few marigold seeds. I must have been about 10 years old. I can still recall how amazed I was that a live plant could grow from what appeared to be a dried up sliver of straw. I can even conjure up the smell of the moistened egg cartons if I think about it hard enough! Even more enthralling of a memory is the first harvest of flowers a couple of months after my offspring made its way out to the garden.

While it is still too early to start marigolds or even tomatoes indoors, it is the perfect time study up on the process so that you can be successful. Sure, it involves a bit more than an egg carton and a window sill, but out of it all you'll be rewarded for your hard work with a bounty of blooms or a basket of vegetables or both. Here are a few pointers that I have gleaned from many seasons of starting seeds indoors.

The general idea is to provide a moist, warm environment for the seed to germinate and then a semi-warm, well-lit environment for the plant to grow on. Therefore, props are necessary components if you want to be successful. Previous articles have covered this part of seed-starting in depth, but I'll re-cap the highlights. Invest in some heat mats and set them at 70 degrees to provide bottom-heat. As far

as light goes, the window sill won't cut it unless you are extremely diligent about turning the plants many times over the course of the day, and even then, "stretch" is likely to occur. Instead, adjust a "shop light" so that it can be raised and lowered easily. One cool fluorescent bulb and one warm are recommended but two cool work just fine in my experience. Forgo garden soil or even regular potting soil in place of a finely milled seed-starting mix. Sterilize shallow containers of choice in a 10% bleach solution before using them.

Sow teenie seeds on the surface of moist starting mix; small seed can be sown in shallow furrows. Space as best you can by folding an index card, placing the seed in the fold and tapping the card with your finger. Larger seeds can be buried a quarter of an inch apart. Cover with a humidity dome or a clear plastic bag propped up like a tent and place on bottom heat. Mist the soil of surface-sown seeds occasionally. When thoroughly dry, soak the container in a few inches of water; it will absorb moisture like a sponge. Once germination occurs, remove the dome or bag and place the seedlings within a



couple of inches of the shop light off of the heat mats. Adjust lights accordingly as growth occurs. Use liquid fertilizer at one-quarter to half-strength after a couple weeks and transplant into small, individual containers or cells after true leaves form.

Transplanted

seedlings can happily grow under the lights until it approaches the time to plant them outdoors. About a week before Memorial Day, harden off heat lovers such as tomatoes, peppers, basil or marigolds. Place in a sheltered spot and gradually work up to more exposure until finally they are outdoors all day and all night. All of this work may seem like a lot, but the benefits to starting your own seedlings are many, the first of which is the endless number of varieties for sale as seeds versus those available as plants at your local nursery.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Mass Wildlife highlights shortnose sturgeon

REGION - The year 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). To celebrate, MassWildlife will be highlighting one rare species each month as a Species Spotlight. Through the implementation of MESA, MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program conserves and protects the most vulnerable animals and plants of Massachusetts and the habitats upon which they depend. Stay up to date on how MassWildlife is celebrating this important milestone by visiting mass.gov/30MESA

Common name: Shortnose sturgeon

Shortnose sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum) are found in major rivers along the East Coast of North America from Florida to New Brunswick, Canada. In Massachusetts, shortnose sturgeon are currently found in the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers with historical occurrences in many coastal rivers around Massachusetts.

Although shortnose sturgeon are one of the largest fish species in Massachusetts inland waters, it is the smallest species of sturgeon in Massachusetts about 40 inches and one of smallest in the sturgeon family (Acipenseridae).

Shortnose sturgeon vary in color from yellow-brown to black-olive on

the dorsal surface and have a white belly. They lack scales, but have five rows of bony plates called scutes. The four barbels (fleshy whisker-like projections) that hang from their snout help shortnose sturgeon find invertebrates in the sediment.

Shortnose sturgeon spawn in large freshwater rivers. They migrate from the mouths of rivers, traveling 10 to 100 miles to reach suitable spawning upstream. During non-spawning periods sturgeon often leave freshwater in pursuit of food resources in estuaries or along the coast and migrate between large river systems.

The migration of the shortnose sturgeon population in the Connecticut River is restricted by hydroelectric dams making this population one of the few that lives only in freshwater.

Shortnose sturgeon are relatively long-lived fish species. They can live up to 60 years, and do not reach reproductive maturity until they are 10-12 years old.

The major threats to this species are river habitat degradation and loss caused by dams, channel dredging, poor water quality, contaminants, fisheries bycatch and incidental boating strikes.

Hydroelectric dams can be harmful in a number of ways. Dams can alter water flow and sediment patterns impacting spawning success,

fragment populations by limiting fish movement, and cause mortality if fish swim too near intake pipes and pass through turbines. Efforts to restore sturgeon migration and reconnect subpopulations are underway in the Connecticut River through the construction of fishways to aid upstream and downstream movement.

Due to its long life and late maturity, populations are likely slow to recover making shortnose sturgeon one of the most vulnerable freshwater fish species in Massachusetts.

Both shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon are endangered species and sightings should be reported to MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP).

It is illegal to possess shortnose sturgeon. If people accidentally catch a sturgeon while fishing, release it as gently and quickly as possible, even if they need to cut the line. Never take the fish out of the water.

MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) is responsible for the conservation and protection of over 400 rare animals and plants, including shortnose sturgeon. NHESP's work is primarily funded through grants and donations from supportive citizens. Donate to NHESP today at mass.gov/support-nhesp.

PAST PAGES, continued from page 4

of the Post and Amerigo (Mike) Simeone, Senior Vice Commander of the Worcester County Council, District 4. Donations and pledges of over \$3,200 were realized from this worthwhile endeavor.

She describes it as a fairy tale ending in a nightmare. She was eighteen years old and married for only nine months when Jean

Farish Cormier, raised in the High Plains section of South Barre, experienced what families in wartime dread. A man in uniform driving a black car pulled up in front of her house. Jean Cormier (presently Jean Raymond) wants to tell her story so that people will remember Edward Cormier who lived all his nineteen years among them. Jean believes that Eddie would have become a member of the Vietnam Memorial Fund Committee in Barre if he had lived through the war.

2020 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising

representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

3

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BG10-20-TMC

Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Petersham. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email edowner@turley.com or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Feb. 1. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Stephen Craven, Barbara Kempski, James Laramee, E. Luukko, Bruce Towner, Jeremy Varnum and Phillip Warbasse correctly identified the photo. Last week’s photo was the evergreen tree at Pine Grove Cemetery, Old Turnpike Road, Oakham.

HARDWICK, continued from page1

plants. Forty to fifty large trees will need to be removed, and the former railroad bed will need to be expanded to a 10-foot wide trail, with stone dust applied. At the time of the selectmen’s meeting, Henshaw was still waiting on an estimate for tree removal, but she said it would likely be in the \$50,000 range. Henshaw explained this is a reimbursement grant, and that the town will have to show the funds spent on the project in order to receive the reimbursement. Henshaw and Zinni said the grant matches up to 80%, with the remaining 20% coming from the Conservation Commission fund and also volunteer hours.

Selectmen Kelly Kemp asked if the town had the funds to front this project. Chairman Kenan Young said that the town did. Zinni said that the Conservation Commission has additional funding to be used for these kinds of actions. He said the Ware River Park project is “more or less dovetailing” the work that the commission and EQLT is doing along the river.

Henshaw said the grant appli-

cation deadline is Monday, Feb. 1. The town should be notified if their application was approved by fall of this year.

Liquor licenses not renewed

Three licensees did not renew their liquor license for 2021. They include: John J. Weir Post 246 American Legion Building, 14 Prospect St., Gilbertville; South Barre Rod and Gun Club, 2626 Barre Rd., Gilbertville; and Lost Towns Brewing Company, 43 Main St., Gilbertville. Selectmen Julie Quink said she understood why Lost Towns Brewing Company and the American Legion did not renew but questioned why South Barre Rod and Gun Club did not. Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said that they missed the deadline to renew, and will need to apply for a new liquor license. Cofske said the town posted a legal notice and there will be a public hearing for those liquor licenses on Feb. 8.

Other business

The board approved a form for the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission stating that Hardwick does not see a temporary increase in resident population during the summer months.

The board shared a letter they received from the Quabbin Regional School District announcing their new COVID-19 Dashboard. The dashboard will be updated weekly on the district’s website. The board commended the school district for keeping families and residents informed about COVID-19 exposure.

Quink said that she forwarded an email to Cofske regarding first responder guidelines and the town’s COVID-19 policy that is currently in place. Quink asked if questions regarding the policy should be sent to Cofske or to the Board of Health’s Health Agent, Marcelino “Tex” Sarabia. Young said that all questions should be directed to Sarabia. The board agreed that as questions arise, they could amend the policy as needed.

Cofske said she is having trouble sharing documents using the Microsoft Teams platform. Young said Cofske’s computer is outdated and slow, causing the issue. Cofske said that she is supposed to be receiving a new laptop that would be set up for any board or commission to use. She will check the status of her new laptop this week.

STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sides differ over decision to clearcut area woods

By Kimberly Palmucci
 Correspondent

REGION — Several local residents have raised concerns over the clearcutting of state forests, including Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area in Belchertown, Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area in Hardwick, and more.

“Most Massachusetts citizens believe that the green areas on maps locate beautiful and fully protected public natural areas. They are mistaken,” said Chris Matera of Massachusetts Forest Watch.

“Essentially zero of our state public lands (12% of Massachusetts land area) are permanently and legally protected from commercial extraction.”

The Massachusetts Forest Watch group formed in response to public outrage over “logging and clearcutting” of state forests. Matera said logging, including much clearcutting, is “increasingly occurring on Massachusetts state public forests, drinking watershed, and wildlife protection forests.”

Why They’re Important

“State Public Forests hold Massachusetts’s most important and unfragmented forests and they provide an incredible amount of public good, including carbon capture and storage, clean air and water, flood control, undisturbed wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, spiritual refuge, tourism attraction, among other benefits,” Matera said.

“However, at the exact moment in history that we are coming to a greater realization about the importance of protecting forests, our state public forest treasure is being increasingly targeted for commercial extraction by timber and bio-mass interests.”

At Muddy Brook, the state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife said it has completed the first phase



The entrance to the Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area in Belchertown.



Turley Publication photos by Michael Harrison

Not very deep along the trail of the Herman Covey Wildlife Management Area, where a narrow stream runs the woods, a clear cut section of land suddenly juts into view. Some residents and wildlife enthusiasts said they worry the area is being over-managed by the state.

of a 500-acre barrens wildlife habitat restoration project. Habitat management actions took place on 375 acres in the Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area, and 125 acres of the adjacent Muddy Brook Wildlife Conservation Easement, owned by the New England Forestry Foundation in Hardwick.

“We are excited to partner with MassWildlife on an ecological restoration effort which supports multiple rare and common wildlife and plant species,” New England Forestry Foundation Executive Director Bob Perschel said in a statement.

“It’s a good example of how organizations can work together to achieve common conservation goals that benefit people, wildlife, and the diverse forest communities in which they live.”

The greater Muddy Brook Valley represents an important and rare collection of fire-influenced barrens habitat communities in Massachusetts, MassWildlife asserts. According to its section on mass.gov, restoring barrens is “critical to conserving the distinct plants, insects, and animals—including 75 species on the Massachusetts Endangered Species List—that depend on these uncommon habitats.”

According to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife officials, over the past six years, the tree canopy has been thinned to reduce high fuel loads and to stimulate growth of barrens plants.

“The site may look bare following initial restoration work,” said John Scanlon, MassWildlife’s Habitat program manager.

“However, in a relatively short period of time, the cut and burned areas will be covered with sprouting native plants and tree seedlings. The reestablishment of this barrens habitat provides the necessary food, cover, and homes for both common and rare animals and pollinators that require this special type of habitat.”

Matera is having none of it.

He said that’s just another example of “excuses” used by state agencies to cut down state forests and “nonsense meant to confuse the public in order to support bigger bureaucratic budgets and private industry profits.”

Private Versus Public Sources

“There is no need to log our state public forests and many reasons not to,” Matera said.

“Private lands provide the vast majority of our wood use. Almost always, the best we humans can do for forest ‘health,’ to benefit wildlife, and to help nature in general is to stop pretending such destructive ‘chainsaw medicine’ helps the forest and leave the forest in peace.”

Matera said that a bill will be introduced this year in the Legislature to stop commercial logging on state public lands—the 2021 version of House Bill 897, an act relative to forest protection.

“Contact your representative and ask them to co-sponsor the 2021 version of House Bill 897 when it is introduced this year,” he said. “We need forests, but they do not need us, that is self-evident.”

To learn more, go to .maforests.org.

VISITOR CENTER, continued from page 1

Campbell not only worked for the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission in the Quabbin Section, but he also spent 75 years as a photographer, earning accolades for his work including three of the highest awards given by the Photographic Society of America, according to the tribute.

“But his passion, for the last 40 years and what he may be best remembered for, is his love of teaching other people his skills. In 1946, Les co-founded the Quabbin Bird Club,” wrote Godfrey in the tribute. “Later, he started many local camera clubs, including the Quabbin Photo Group and Pioneer Valley Photographic Artists. More recently, he became concerned that his fellow photographers could not show their work because of the expense of having it framed. So, he taught them to frame and matte their own photographs in his living room.”

Terry Campbell, born in 1940 in Hartford, Connecticut, lived in Belchertown since 1969 and co-founded the visitors center where she worked for 15 years, according to her obituary from Beers & Story.



Courtesy photo

Lois Doubleday, previous Friends of the Quabbin newsletter editor, and Terry Campbell cut a holiday party cake. Campbell was the first staff member of the Quabbin Visitor’s Center.

“The physical operation of the Visitors Center fell to volunteers... Terry who began with an empty room,” wrote Tiberio in the newsletter. “It was Terry who foresaw the need for a discussion group of, originally, former residents (of the lost towns of the Quabbin) called the Tuesday Tea group. It was

Terry who started selling books on the Quabbin...It was Les and Terry who created a newsletter for members of the Friends of Quabbin. It was Terry who started providing information to visitors and made it obvious that permanent staff were needed for that task. And she became the first Visitors Center staff member hired by MDC.”

Thus far the groups have sent information about the project to: State Rep. Donald Berthiaume, Jr. (R-Spencer), State Sen. Joanne Comerford (D-Northampton), State Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), State Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow), State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren), State Rep. Susannah Whipps-Lee (I-Athol), Congressman Jim McGovern (D-Worcester), Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Ed Markey, Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Jim Montgomery, Frederick P. Laskey, of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Director of the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee Lexi Dewey and former State Sen. Stephen Brewer.

Send comments to Paul Godfrey, 47 Harkness Road, Pelham, MA 01002 or godfrey@umass.edu. Godfrey will share them with the rest of the committee and with others whom they ask for help.

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Panthers return to action with win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BARRE — The first meeting of the regular season between the Fitchburg and Quabbin boys basketball teams was a close affair during the first three quarters.

The Quabbin Panthers dominated the final eight minutes of the Central Mass. Pod 6 contest leading to a 49-34 home victory over the Red Raiders, last Monday night, Jan. 18.

"We shot the ball a lot better and we didn't have as many turn-

overs in the fourth quarter," said Quabbin head coach Dennis Dextradeur. "This is a milestone victory for us over a Division 1 program."

Prior to last Monday night's game, Quabbin had never defeated Fitchburg in a regular season game. It also marked the first time that the Red Raiders made a visit to the Panthers gymnasium.

"We've never beaten Fitchburg before tonight's game," Dextradeur added. "We now have to play them again on Thursday night. I'm sure they'll be a much different team on

their home court."

That was certainly the case, as Quabbin, who had a 3-0 record following the home victory, suffered a 61-44 loss at Fitchburg three days later. The Panthers only double-digit scorer in the second meeting against the Red Raiders (1-3) was junior Connor Geary with 19 points.

Geary also led the way offensively in the first meeting between the two squads. He scored 10 of his game-high 17 points during the third quarter.

"Connor Geary is an explosive

basketball player," said Dextradeur, who has been coaching the Panthers boys' varsity basketball team for the past 29 years. "He has been one of our go-to players offensively so far this season. No player on our basketball team works harder than Connor does. He has a lot of potential and he's a definite college prospect."

Another go-to player for Quabbin is senior Shea Skowrya, who recently committed to play college basketball at the University of New England. Skowrya posted a double-double in last Monday's

home victory with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

"I thought Shea did a nice job of controlling the paint at both ends of the court in tonight's game," Dextradeur said. "He played very well."

Senior Brendan Whitelaw, who's a co-captain along with Skowrya, chipped in with 9 points in the home game against Fitchburg.

Dextradeur also praised the performance of sophomore Cam Hoekstra and senior Ryan Kowal (6 points).

"Cam and Ryan, who are our point guards, did a very good job of settling the team down," Dextradeur added. "I thought we played very well defensively."

The largest lead either team had during the first three quarters of last Monday's contest was five points.

After the Red Raiders built an 8-3 lead with 2:45 remaining in the opening quarter, the Panthers responded with a 9-2 run.

Geary began Quabbin's spurt by

See PANTHERS, page 8

Winter sports begin



Amherst took the ice to start the regular season last week against Ludlow.



Hampden Charter is one of the schools playing this winter.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION — Winter sports, however abbreviated, have begun for several schools in Western and Central Massachusetts.

While Quabbin got off to a start a bit earlier, several Western Mass. teams caught up with game action beginning last Thursday evening.

Ludlow, Amherst, Agawam, Ware, and Hampden Charter School of Science were all in action with girls and boys basketball.

Hockey also got in on the action over the weekend, though not all of the hockey teams were involved with some schools opting not to participate in the sport.

Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Minnechaug, along with Pathfinder and Palmer, were scheduled to get involved on the action earlier this week, with the game action starting to pick up and teams attempting to play 10 to 12 games during the next five or six weeks, which is what is left of the winter season.

Agawam is scheduled to be in a bubble west of the Connecticut River, including Westfield and West Springfield.

Amherst will matchup with Ludlow, among other teams, and Ware and Hampden Charter mixed up last week, and Ware is set to take on Palmer and Pathfinder in the coming weeks.

Minnechaug and Chicopee Comprehensive are set to match up next week as well. East Longmeadow will also join the mix in that bubble.

In hockey action, Ludlow and Amherst had their first games of the regular season. Ludlow, Agawam, Minnechaug, and other Berry Division teams will be part of a league in the coming season. Most of the teams in that league play their home games at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

Action at Olympia Ice Center last Saturday included Ludlow and Amherst as well as East Longmeadow and Agawam. All players were observing changes in protocol by changing into uniforms and gear in parking lots. Temperatures were cold with an even colder wind chill on Saturday. Players were only allowed to put skates on once inside the arena. The small num-

See WINTER SPORTS, page 8



Photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

There is limited action in the region with some schools opting out of the winter season.

Entry forms now available for the Thompson 300

WATERBURY, Conn. — The American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have released the official entry form for the Thompson 300 at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Oct. 9 and 10. More than \$100,000 in projected awards are posted for the return of the historic event as part of the 59th World Series of Speedway Racing.

As previously announced, the 300-lap event will pay the winner a guaranteed minimum of \$20,000. Second place receives \$7,500 with \$5,000 for third. Everyone who takes the green flag will bring home at least \$1,200. Thirty-six starting positions have been posted with a total of \$85,475 in base purse money.

Lap money is also up for grabs. Every lap sold will award \$50 to the driver who leads that lap. This means up to \$15,000 in lap money and the Thompson 300 winner could pocket up to \$35,000 total.

A Last Chance "B" Feature has been posted as well. This final round qualifier will pay \$1,000 to win and \$250 to start for teams that do not transfer into the Thompson 300.

"The Thompson 300 is one of the most famous events in Modified racing," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "When Tom Mayberry and I reached out agreement to promote events at Thompson Speedway, Tom's first idea was to bring back the Thompson 300. Together, we've put a lot of work into figuring



Submitted photo

The Thompson 300 will take place in October at Thompson Speedway.

out how to make it happen. We're already excited even with the date still nearly nine months away. It's going to be a must-see event this year and hopefully for years to come."

The entry form has been posted at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds and www.proallstarseries.com. Teams that register by Thursday, April 15 receive an early-entry discount. The first 26 teams that register will also receive a garage stall for World Series weekend.

Qualifying for the Thompson 300 is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9 with the 300-lap main event on Sunday, Oct. 10. An optional practice session is planned for Friday, Oct. 8. More information will be announced over the coming months. All schedules are subject to change.

This year's Thompson 300 is

the first time the event has been held since 2005. Previous winners include Northeast racing legends Richie Evans, Geoffrey Bodine, Ron Bouchard, Jimmy Spencer, Mike Stefanik, Steve Park, Mike McLaughlin, and Ted Christopher.

The return of the Thompson 300 is the finale in the six-race Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series. The opener of the series is the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 on April 10 and 11. Some of the top names in Tour-Type Modified racing have already entered the Icebreaker event, including Keith Rocco, Doug Coby, Bobby Santos III, Ron Silk, Mike Christopher Jr., and Jon McKennedy. The series also includes \$5,000-to-win events on June 16, July 7, Aug. 11, and Sept. 15.

Teams that attempt to qualify

See RACING, page 8

Little league annual meeting set for Feb. 3

BARRE — Quabbin Area Little League (QALL) will hold its annual meeting virtually: <https://meet.google.com/edy-cycy-epq> at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3. The purpose of the meeting is to close 2019-20 business and elect the Board of Directors for 2020-21. If you are interested in nominating someone (or yourself) for the Board of Directors, please attend this meeting. You

can contact QALL if you have interest but are not able to attend - contact information below. Nominees will be provided time to briefly introduce themselves to the Regular Members at the Annual Meeting before the vote.

Positions elected annually include:

- President
- Vice President - Baseball

- Vice President - Softball
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Safety Officer
- Umpire in Chief
- Player Agent
- Other Opportunities

Please contact Shawn LaRoche, 2019-20 QALL President with any questions - qall3ma@gmail.com.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW — The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.western-massrelics.org>.

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW — Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. The second sessions available.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65

per session. Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players' safety).

SESSION 2 : MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15

Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

New umpires needed for 2021 season

REGION — The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County. The WMBUA's first year mem-

bers class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-19 pandemic. Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East

Longmeadow's classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings.

If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at cmeffen8017@gmail.com or visit the WMBUA website at <http://wmbua.org>.

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Athlete of the Week



NAME: Shea Skowyra
SCHOOL: Quabbin

In Quabbin's opener against Fitchburg, Skowyra had a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

To nominate someone for Athlete of the Month, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

WINTER SPORTS, continued from page 7

ber of fans allowed to attend games were not allowed to mill around in the lobby, and the extension of benches was completed as well as a fenced-in extension.

At Olympia, if more than one player on a team was sent to the penalty box, they were sent to their team's bench to serve out the penalty in order to have one player in the box at a time.

The winter season will continue until late February and then Fall 2 is scheduled to begin with some basketball action, indoor track, girls volleyball, and football taking center stage into the first month of the spring.

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CLUES ACROSS

- Gather a harvest
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- "The Little Mermaid"
- The common gibbon
- Volcanic island in Fiji
- Mother of Perseus
- Egg cells
- Teams' best pitchers
- Credit associations
- Advance
- Hair styling products
- Benign tumors
- Arriving early
- Called it a career
- ___ Paulo, city
- Avoid with trickery
- Easter egg
- Veterans battleground
- Lack of success
- Thing that causes disgust
- Deep, continuing

CLUES DOWN

- Cool!
- Amounts of time
- Aboriginal people of Japan
- Popular veggies
- sound
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- You might put it in a fire
- Partner to "oohed"
- Actor Idris
- Slippery
- Plant of the bean family
- One point north of northeast
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Places to hang clothes
- Midwife
- Of she
- S. Korean statesman
- Wedding accessory
- Deep, narrow gorges
- Competitions that require speed
- Cain and ___
- Snake sound
- Type of amino acid (abbr.)
- Pattern of notes in Indian music
- Satisfy
- Misfire
- Nearsightedness
- Indicates before
- Increase motor speed
- When you hope to get there
- Indicates position
- Where rockers perform
- Substitute
- ___ juris: of one's own right
- Earliest form of
- modern human in Europe: ___magnon
- Adult female bird
- Do away with
- Lens
- Flattened appendage
- Post or pillar in Greek temple
- A medieval citizen of Hungary
- Spiritual leader of a
- Abba ___ Israeli politician
- Sew
- Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
- Swiss river
- Grayish-white
- A way to illustrate
- College basketball superpower
- Midway between south and southeast

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

Education

QCC offers hands-on learning to students at home

WORCESTER – At Quinsigamond Community College, hands-on learning is an integral part of student success. Students, who have the skill sets that enable them to hit the ground running in a new job, are more valued when they enter the workforce. Thus, when QCC transitioned to remote instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the college's programs developed in-home, hands-on learning modules for students to continue this important educational training.

"QCC is dedicated to providing quality education and this in-home learning module approach is a method that allows students hands-on experiences they would otherwise not be able to have in a remote environment," said Betty Lauer, dean for the School of Business, Engineering and Technology.

Students in courses that ranged from electronics engineering technology to computer systems engineering technology and food service, have been able to experience hands-on learning from the safety of their homes, mimicking activities they would have normally performed in an on-campus lab setting.

"We have been reviewing our laboratory work to determine what projects can be done remotely, then modifying those

projects so that students can do them at home. This is an iterative process to identify the best combinations of tasks and interaction levels for different students," said Jacob Longacre, professor of electronics engineering technology.

In some of QCC's electronics courses, students received a learning module that included both instruments and components. The components enabled students to build simple circuits and the instruments enabled them to make various electrical measurements. Students in the embedded microcontrollers course received components that included an Arduino programmable microcontroller, small electric motors, LEDs (single color and red-green-blue), push-buttons, switches, a joystick, temperature sensors, and light sensors.

"With these components students can unleash their creativity and build program projects that involve controlling light (blinking, flashing, fading, multicolor), sound, motion and temperature," said James Heffernan, professor of electronics engineering technology.

Other electronics students received "breadboard" devices used to make up temporary circuits, as well as a Student Data Acquisition Device. The

myDAQ is an interface that includes a comprehensive set of plug-and-play, computer-based lab instruments for hands-on student learning outside the lab.

In the food services programs, faculty and staff reviewed curriculum requirements and selected recipes for take-home learning modules, which demonstrated specific learning concepts and provided key academic knowledge and skills development. The modules contained non-perishable food items, small kitchen tools and miscellaneous items to enable students to work from their homes. They were mailed to students or students were able to pick them up at QCC at the Senior Center, where the College's Hospitality Restaurant Management programs are housed. Students either obtained their own perishable food items or picked them up from QCC.

An example of a key learning concept in food service is the importance of cleaning protocols, required under ServSafe requirements. In the food service module, students received a "glow" powder that they sprinkled on a food prep surface they had cleaned. Then, using a mini black light also provided in the take home packet, they could see any particles that remained on the surface.

Additionally, during the upcoming spring semester, manufacturing students will be taking certificate exams for Precision Measurement in Associate Professor Lee Duerden's quality manufacturing course. The students will practice on measuring equipment they will receive in their "Metrology Tool Chest."

"QCC has been lucky to expand its capability and equipment in this area. Just packaging all this equipment up has proved challenging, but providing hands-on training is essential for the successful completion of this manufacturing course. It has been an incredible achievement from QCC and its faculty to provide this equipment that is so necessary to continue hands-on learning during this pandemic," Duerden said, adding that the tool chests will be returned upon completion of the course.

"We expect to continue using this method of learning in the future. Students have really embraced the idea of learning in their own space and many students have excelled in this learning style environment," Lauer said.

For more information about QCC, people may contact Josh Martin, director of institutional communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Applications open to high school seniors and college students studying journalism

REGION – The New England Newspaper and Press Association awards up to 10 scholarships each year to aspiring journalists through the Journalism Education Foundation of New England. Applications are open through the deadline of March. The foundation strives to encourage and support young people who plan to pursue a career in the newspaper industry.

College students or high school seniors who are studying and acquiring work experience that will prepare them to work in the field of journalism are eligible to apply.

For more information contact Linda Conway at l.conway@nenpa.com.

To qualify students must:

- Be a resident of New England.
- Be a senior in high school planning to attend college the following year or an undergraduate college student studying journalism or a related field.

Have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

Demonstrate a serious interest in a career in journalism by sending: a cover letter, transcript, resume or biography, letter of recommendation, and a body of published work in a school news publication, general circulation newspaper, or a similar publication and/or a body of work prepared for a journalism class.

Please note: Those applying will be required to sign in to Google to upload documents.

The deadline to apply is March 12.

COLLEGE DEAN'S AND PRESIDENT'S LISTS

Paige Cahalan makes dean's list

CONWAY, S.C. – Coastal Carolina University announced the dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. Paige Cahalan of Ware and a management major made the dean's list.

Emma Stoddard makes dean's list

ALBANY, N.Y. – Emma Stoddard of Barre made the fall 2020 dean's list at the State University of New York at Albany.

Dean College announces fall dean's list

FRANKLIN – Dean College announces the dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. Local students making the dean's list are Ruby Caron of Hubbardston and Lindsey Kelleher of Ware.

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FSU announces president's and dean's list for fall semester

FITCHBURG – Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus announced the names of local students included on the president's list and dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. Local students making president's list were Brittany L. Eldridge of Hubbardston and Kurtis D. Graeff of Petersham. The president's list honors students for consistently high

academic achievement. A student is named to the list after achieving a 3.75 average in each of three successive semesters.

Local students making dean's list for the fall 2020 semester were: Kaelie A. Hosley and Hannah P. Perron, both of Barre; Nicholas J. Chambers, Teagan K. Cybulski, Jessica Day, Melody W. Farrell, Gwyneth Femino, Ashley M. Girouard, Christina Hantzis, Kelsey D. Robillard, Marie C. Roy, Benjamin A. Sacramone and Alyssa M. Syria, all of Hubbardston; Jackolene S. Bertrand, Abigail A. Buchyn, Joshua C. Frazier, Veronica A. Hazen and Erin N. Quinlivan, all of Oakham and Alexander D. Dinsdale, James P. Grady, Devon A. Hawley, Olivia C. Kephart, Michael J. Riendeau and Sarah G. Trudeau, all of Rutland. A student is placed on the dean's list for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained and the student is attending the university full time.

Ashley Mintz presents at Lasell University Symposium

NEWTON – Ashley Mintz, a Lasell University student from Hardwick, presented at the university's Fall Career Readiness Symposium in December.

Mintz participated in a project focused on the "three pillars of transformation" or ways to use practices of mind, body and emotion to unlock new levels of healing, happiness and purpose in one's life. Mintz's project

focused specifically on the impact of yoga in decreasing stress among college students.

The December 2020 event showcased the work of Mintz and more than 150 other students in a dynamic digital format, a triumph for flexible teaching and learning amid COVID-19. The December 2020 event was reimagined to celebrate and showcase the ties

between career preparedness and connected learning, thanks to a three-year grant from the Davis Educational Foundation.

All Symposium presentations focused on four of the National Association of Colleges and Employers' career-readiness competencies: Global and Intercultural Fluency, Professional and Work Ethic, Leadership and Career Management.

RACING, continued from page 7

for all six Outlaw Open Modified Series events will be eligible for provisional starting spots in the Thompson 300. The number of available provisionals is to be determined.

The rules for the Outlaw Open Modified Series have been posted at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds. Contact Greg Felton at (413) 695-2272 or gt.felton@gmail.com with any Modified tech questions.

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PANTHERS, continued from page 7

knocking down a 3-pointer from the top of the key. The Panthers would then tie the score at 10-10 during the final seconds of the first quarter following back-to-back lay-ups by Whitelaw and Kowal.

Then a reverse lay-up by Geary less than a minute into the second stanza gave Quabbin the lead for the first time in the game at 12-10.

Quabbin trailed 19-17 at half-time, which only lasted a couple of minutes due to the new COVID rules.

Geary made two more 3-pointers and added a pair of jumpers during the third quarter, which helped give the Panthers a 31-29 advantage. Then a pull-up jumper in the lane by Kowal increased his team's lead to four points.

Fitchburg senior Gabe Rivera hit a 3-pointer from N.B.A. range at the buzzer closing the gap to one point entering the

final eight minutes of the contest. Both Rivera and junior Darnell Thomas led the Red Raiders with 7 points.

The Panthers finally pulled away from the Red Raiders by scoring the first 16 points of the fourth quarter.

Whitelaw scored seven of those points, while Kowal, Skowyra, Geary, and senior Devin Pride (6 points) combined to score the other nine points.

"It was a close game during the first three quarters of the game," said Geary, a second-year member of the varsity basketball team. "Our defense was able to shut them down during the fourth quarter. It's a very big win for us."

The Panthers held a 49-32 lead before the Red Raiders scored an inside basket with a minute remaining in regulation.

The Panthers, who were scheduled to play a road game against the Oakmont Spartans on Monday, are slated to host the Spartans on Thursday night.

Mary Lane ER, cancer unit to close in June

Facility set to be closed in two years

By Melina Bourdeau
Staff writer

WARE – Baystate Health announced it planned to close Mary Lane Outpatient Center’s doors completely by 2023, with the closure of the Emergency Room and cancer unit in June.

Baystate Health President and CEO Mark A. Keroack and President and Chief Administrative Officer Molly Gray announced the closure of the 112-year-old facility in a press conference on Tuesday.

“This is part and parcel of an ongoing assessment that Baystate does to adapt to changes in demand for our services and to stay contemporary in how we deliver our care,” he said.

Factors for closure

Gray and Keroack attributed Mary Lanes’s closure to several factors – the building’s age, the lack of use by the community and lack of staff retention.

He said over the years the volumes for the in-patient services at Mary Lane were declining to the “point where they averaged in the single-digits in 2016 when we decided to shutter those services.”

In 2016, Baystate pledged to keep the emergency department open at Mary Lane for at least several years.

These trends have continued, according to Gray.

“Patients are actually choosing to receive care in other locations,” Gray said. “Today, nearly half of Baystate Mary Lane Outpatient Center is vacant by day and 90% unused at night. Baystate Mary Lane’s emergency department has had minimal utilization for true emergency services of the 28 patients who arrive at that site for care 85% or 24 out of 28 of the patients present with common, minor, non-urgent conditions like a cold, flu or sprain that could be treated in a primary care setting.”

Additionally, Baystate has had difficulty recruiting and retaining providers in the area, especially in small practices. Gray said in the last two to three years, a net loss of six primary care positions were lost in its Eastern Region.

“This is a market reality that reflects the need to consolidate practices in support of clinicians,” Gray said. “Candidates really seek robust, multi-specialty practices.”

Another attributing factor to Mary Lane’s closure is the building’s age.

Gray said “to maintain steady-state operations would require over \$5 million in construction investments to maintain the facility, compliance and operations over the next three years.”

Baystate will consolidate operations at Baystate Wing to “better invest resources in state-of-the-art care, emergency care and physician recruitment and retention. This will really allow us for more effective staffing in an area where recruiting clinical professionals can be challenging.”

Five years ago, Baystate closed in-patient services at Mary Lane. Local members of the community opposed the decision, including the Keep Mary Lane Local Coalition.

Keroack said five years ago he heard “some really raw emotions from people who had fond memories of Mary Lane.”

“I understand how a community gets attached to a hospital, my responsibility is to take a look at what can we do there. What’s the best way to configure services for all the 100,000 people in the dozens of town that are served in our eastern region,” Keroack said. “When you look at what people feels in their hearts is often not matched with what they’re doing in terms of their choices of where to go when they’re sick...It’s something where I need to put my emotions aside and take an objective look can we legitimately offer something there that makes sense or try to consolidate services and make Wing more robust.” Keroack said both his parents were born in Mary Lane in the 1920s.

Next steps

The formal process requires Baystate make notice to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health which was filed in the days following the announcement, Keroack said.

The DPH will conduct hearings and issue a ruling as to whether Baystate’s plan will be approved.

“We’re also planning to have a virtual town hall in the next few weeks,” Keroack said.

Baystate Wing would consolidate Mary Lane, which Gray said has been “fit tested.”



Mary Lane Hospital 01

Baystate Health plans to ask the Department of Public Health to let it close its Mary Lane campus and move services to Palmer and Springfield.

“We have a new emergency service here at Wing and there is space to accommodate all the visits that are happening in the Eastern Region and have additional growth if need be,” said Gray. “When we talk about this taking a period of time over two to three years, we are going to be relocating the services we provide at Mary Lane to Wing Hospital and that will require an investment in construction and expansion.”

Keroack said Baystate would spend about \$10 to \$15 million investment to “refurbish, upgrade and expand that facility.”

In terms of what to do with the site, Keroack said Baystate would be in conversation with Ware officials.

“We certainly would be willing to demolish the existing building if there is no use for it and gift the land to the town as green space,” said Keroack.

He added that if the town had use for the building Baystate would not demo the building, but “we haven’t thought of anything the town would be able to do with the building. Perhaps they have ideas and we would just have to have conversations with them.”

Gray and Keroack said the roughly 80 Mary Lane employees would continue to be employed by Baystate due to a high need in the company.

“This is a good time in health care because there are many opportunities,” Gray said. “We will be working with individuals one on one.”

To address the need for transportation in the area, Keroack said Baystate has “really thought through the issue.”

“We already were funding the Quaboag Connector which provides about 1,000 rides per month in the Quaboag Valley towns, particularly between Palmer and Ware for appointments,” he said. “We’re likely going to need to expand those services and include occasional trips to Springfield because cancer patients will be able to get some kind of treatment at Wing, but the more elaborate kinds of treatments would require a trip to Springfield.”

Community members react

Keroack said the closure of the hospital is “going to be a blow to the town beyond the healthcare side of things.”

“I think it’s part of the identity of the town when something that’s been there for 100 years just suddenly goes away,” he said. “Obviously, it’s been shrinking considerably for quite some time.”

But it’s also a change in how emergency services are delivered before a patient gets to a hospital.

“I really wish there was more planning before they dropped this on us,” said Fire Chief Christopher Gagnon.

With the emergency satellite facility closing in approximately six months, Gagnon said it doesn’t give the Ware Fire Department much time to plan for how to deal with the change.

Ambulances will be out of service for longer times as trips will always to be to Palmer or Springfield instead of to Mary Lane.

“Our ability to respond to multiple calls quickly is now vastly diminished,” Gagnon said. Using a trip by an ambulance downtown, responding to a patient and taking them to Mary Lane, which took perhaps 30 minutes all told, the drive will increase for each and every trip.

“We’ve had the luxury of being able to turn our trucks around quickly, but we’ll lose that,” he said.

Gagnon said he is also worried about having to call in additional manpower on overtime when multiple medical calls come in while one ambulance is already in Palmer or beyond.

“There will also be more wear and tear on our vehicles,” he said, with each trip being out-of-town.

“The overall impact is going to be a huge logistical change,” he said. “But we’ll have to learn to

adjust. It’s a real disappointment to us.”

He’s not alone in believing this will be a difficult transition.

West Brookfield Rescue Squad President Daniel McCall said Mary Lane’s closure will have a

“profound effect on us and our community as a whole, even down to the level of service we provide patients.”

Currently patients serviced the West Brookfield Rescue have a six-minute ride to Mary Lane and up to 30 minutes to either Wing or Harrington Hospital, McCall said. Of the 1,100 transports WBRS does in a year, about 50% of the time patients are transported to Mary Lane.

“We’re going to have go up a level of service and provide more advanced critical care for residents because we will have a longer transport time,” he said. “There will also be an economic impact on what we do because when have a sick patient in the ambulance for a longer time, you’ll have to deliver more care.”

McCall said he felt the decision was unfortunate and will “flip (EMS) on its head.”

Elected officials react

“It’s certainly a surprise and it’s a disappointment. We’re not going to leave at this,” said State Rep. Todd Smola. “They say the people just aren’t coming to Mary Lane, and we want to know exactly how they reached this conclusion. It’s so sudden, and none of us had any knowledge this was coming.”

Smola said he, State Rep. Donnie Berthiaume, R-Spencer, and State Sen. Anne Gobi, D-Spencer, were all informed Tuesday morning by Baystate Health officials that the closure was planned.

Smola said the legislative delegation wants to meet with Baystate Health officials and town officials. “We want to hear very specifically how they reached these conclusions,” he said.

He pointed to how hard citizens in the town fought to keep the hospital open as much as possible in 2016, when Baystate Health asked the state to change Mary Lane’s emergency room to a satellite emergency facility and close its in-patient beds. Over the last five years the campus has essentially changed to all out-patient services.

Sen. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) said the decision “blindsided” her and other elected officials, adding the decision was very upsetting and handled unprofessionally by Baystate Health.

She said the closure was similar to events five years ago when Mary Lane in-patient services were closed.

“We went through an awful lot five years ago,” she said, “Baystate is doing a great disservice to the community. It blindsided me and other legislators, we had previously heard rumors, but I did not get a call from Baystate until today.”

Gobi said she thought Baystate would have learned from “five years ago, and how poorly they handled things then. You would think they would have made a few adjustments.”

She felt the closure of the outpatient center is “horrible,” and “like a slap in the face.” I

“We’re still in a pandemic and this when they choose to shut down services at a time when they should be bending over backwards to help people,” Gobi said. “I’m not pleased.”

A possible positive

“It’s really sad; it’s a shock,” said Tracy Opalinski, who worked to keep Mary Lane open as a hospital in 2016, and said there were no prior discussions with the town or major donors about these plans. “They were investing significantly with Healogics’ wound care center, and a \$1 million pharmacy, which was delayed by COVID, was supposed to go in,” she said, as well as the radiology upgrade and enhanced oncology department as well.

Despite her anger and disap-

See MARY LANE, page12

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Matters of Faith Pt. 3

We are in the midst of a series on the topic of faith. As we have noted, faith can be defined as a God-centered confidence or trust. This week let us continue by examining the varying types of belief outlined in Scripture. Please take note of the following:

1) “Little” Faith

Matthew 14:22-31

22 . . . Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, 24 and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” 28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” 29 “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

This portion of the Bible speaks to “little” faith (v. 31). Little faith refers to a weak and wavering faith—a faith that is susceptible to the influence of external circumstance and liable to retreat into disbelief. This is precisely what the apostle Peter demonstrated in the moment!

Is this the type of faith we are to strive after or emulate? No. However, everyone has to start somewhere in their spiritual journey, and we are all subject to weakness at times. Though “little” faith is not ideal, Christ is gracious and willing to meet us in our humanity. The Lord did not condemn Peter for having a

feeble faith (i.e., allowing him to drown). Rather, He picked Peter up out of the water and invited him to a deeper degree of trust. He does the same with you and me!

Do you feel like you are drowning a bit in the storms of life and living? Reach for the ever-able hand of the Master!

2) “Persevering” Faith

Scripture speaks to a “persevering” faith:

Hebrews 10:35-36

35 . . . do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

You see, in many ways it is not how you start the Christian race—it is how you finish. Christianity will be of no benefit to you if you “throw away” your faith in times of adversity, affliction or opposition. Hence the call of the author of Hebrews noted above.

Christ similarly taught on the need for perseverance:

Luke 8:4-8, 11-15

4 While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: 5 “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. 6 Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” 11 “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. 14 The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are

choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15 But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

3) “Tested” Faith

Lastly, Scripture speaks to a “tested” faith:

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

How many of us realize that God tests our faith? Why? It is through testing that our faith is refined into something pleasing to Him. Consider that the only way to purify a metal like gold is to heat it up. As the metal is placed into the fire and melted, inherent impurities rise to the surface and are removed by the metal-worker. This is how you get 24k gold, as the process is repeated and repeated and repeated. God does the same with us, allowing the “fires of this life” to eradicate impurity and refine a purified faith.

Is this an easy process? Not at all. However, the end result is and shall be worth it. Let us strive after the example set forth by Job:

Job 23:8-10 (Emphasis Mine)

8 “But if I go to the east, he is not there; if I go to the west, I do not find him.

9 When he is at work in the north, I do not see him; when he turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him.

10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30am (COVID-19 protocols are presented on the aforementioned website). We hope to see you soon!

Pastor James Foley

New Life Assembly of God

Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE — “It’s so good to be in church,” was a remark heard recently on a Sunday in the Tri-Parish Community Church in New Braintree. COVID-19 does seem to be making us feel like prisoners in our own homes; but, this past Sunday, Jan. 24, almost a baker’s dozen of hardy souls braved the biting cold to worship at the New Braintree Congregational Church. The service was led by Deacon Jennifer Pollard and the topic, “Answering the call.”

Next Sunday, Jan. 31, the service will be led by Deacon Marguerite Crevier at 10 a.m. in the New Braintree Congregational Church. Social distancing is easy and we are almost getting used to masks. And, by the way, have you noticed the new portable sign on the church lawn – large 4” letters

making it easier to read it and it can travel to the three churches as we rotate them. And, one more thing, coming up in February, we will be welcoming back the Rev. Kathleen Fitzgibbons to lead the services on Feb. 7 and 21. All are welcome. Lastly, do not forget the annual business meeting to be held on Feb. 7 after the worship service at the New Braintree Congregational Church – it is important.

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14 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES
Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Country Journal • Chicopee Register
Ware River News • The Journal Register • The Ludlow Register • Quabog Current
The Sentinel • The Holyoke Sun • Wilbraham-Hampden Times • Town Reminder

Sunday, Jan. 18
6:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Worcester Road – Citation Issued
7:11 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South
Barre Road – Citation Issued
7:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Worcester Road – Citation Issued
7:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South
Barre Road – Citation Issued
8:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Worcester Road – Citation Issued
8:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Hubbardston Road – Citation Issued
9:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Summer Street – Citation Issued
9:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main
Street – Citation Issued
9:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South
Barre Road – Citation Issued
10:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
James Street – Citation Issued
10:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Summer Street – Citation Issued
10:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Worcester Road – Citation Issued
11:52 p.m. Assault and Battery
South Street – Report Filed
Summons: Keischaun Anderson, 21,
Barre
Assault and Battery With Dangerous
Weapon – Teeth; Assault and Battery

Monday, Jan. 18
8:57 a.m. Vandalism South Barre
Road – Report Filed
10:16 a.m. Fire – Chimney
Washburn Road – Fire Extinguished
1:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Common Street – Citation Issued
6:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/
Fire South Barre Road – Vehicle Towed

Tuesday, Jan. 19
2:32 a.m. Fire Alarm Activation
South Street – Investigated
5:48 p.m. Follow-up Investigation
Peach Street – Citation Issued

Wednesday, Jan. 20
4:14 a.m. Abdominal/Back Pain
Ruggles Lane – Transported to Hospital
8:48 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Wauwinet
Road – Officer Advised
8:09 p.m. Assault and Battery Main
Street – Officer Spoke to Party
Summons: Tiffany L. Fielding, 30,
South Barre
Assault and Battery

Thursday, Jan. 21
12:27 p.m. Larceny/Theft Eagle
Drive – Officer Spoke to Party
4:30 p.m. Property Damage James
Street – Investigated

Friday, Jan. 22
8:15 a.m. Serve Warrant Wilton
Street – Removed to Court/Lockup
Arrest: David A. Henderson, 36,
Barre
Warrant
2:57 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Wauwinet
Road – Officer Advised
7:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Worcester Road – Citation Issued
7:46 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South
Barre Road – Citation Issued
8:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Summer Street – Citation Issued
8:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Hubbardston Road – Citation Issued
8:21 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop
Worcester Road – Citation Issued

Saturday, Jan. 23
1:56 p.m. Stolen Vehicle Dana Road
– Vehicle Towed
Summons: Dennis M. Riley, 44,
Barre
Receive Stolen Property +\$1,200
6:55 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop West
Street – Citation Issued
7:08 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop West
Street – Citation Issued
9:14 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop South
Street – Citation Issued

SOUTH BARRE

Tuesday, Jan. 19
5:54 p.m. Chest Pain/Hair Problem
Main Street – Referred to Other Agency

For the week of Jan. 18-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 95 building/property checks, 6 emergency 911 calls, 13 radar assignments, 32 directed/area patrols, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 illegal dumping, 1 trespass, 1 scam, 1 safety hazard, 11 traffic controls and 64 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.

Monday, Jan. 18
2:29 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Written Warning
2:39 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
3:12 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Written Warning
3:20 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Citation Issued
4:27 p.m. Phone – Medical
Emergency New Braintree Road –
Transported to Hospital
4:54 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Barre Road – Written Warning
5:23 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued

Tuesday, Jan. 19
7:12 a.m. 911 – Misdiagonal Ruggles Hill
Road – Call Cancelled
1:34 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency
Main Street – Services Rendered
2:15 p.m. Initiated – Illegal Dumping
Railroad Lane – Could Not Locate
4:15 p.m. Initiated – Investigation
Collins Road – Services Rendered
7:45 p.m. Phone – Investigation
Ruggles Street – Investigated

Wednesday, Jan. 20
12:22 p.m. Phone – Trespass Old
Greenwich Plains Road – Negative
Contact
3:55 p.m. 911 – Misdiagonal Old
Petersham Road – Officer Handled
4:36 p.m. Phone – Motor Vehicle
Stop Lower Road – Citation Issued

Thursday, Jan. 21
12:01 a.m. Phone – Medical
Emergency Main Street – Services
Rendered
11:48 a.m. 911 – Safety Hazard
Hardwick Road – Taken/Referred to
Other Agency

7:25 p.m. Initiated – Scam Ruggles
Hill Road – Officer Handled
4:02 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Lower Road – Written Warning

Friday, Jan. 22
6:27 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Written Warning
7:18 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Written Warning
8:49 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Bridge Street – Citation Issued
9:32 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle
Stop Main Street – Written Warning

Saturday, Jan. 23
10:30 a.m. 911 – Motor Vehicle
Accident Hardwick Road – Report Taken

Sunday, Jan. 24
9:49 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard
Muddy Brook Road – Taken/Referred to
Other Agency

Monday, Jan. 25
2:42 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency
Hardwick Road – Transported to
Hospital

<p>For the week of Jan. 18-25, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department conducted 22 building/property checks, 7 radar assignments, 5 motor vehicle stop, 26 directed/area patrols, 7 traffic controls and 2 emergency 911 calls in the town of New Braintree.</p>	<p>Monday, Jan. 18 8:44 a.m. Phone – Alarm Memorial Drive – Building Checked/Secured</p>	<p>4:58 p.m. Initiated – Complaint Harrington Road – Gone On Arrival 5:22 p.m. 911 – Misdial Scott Road – Services Rendered</p>
	<p>Thursday, Jan. 21 10:24 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Investigation Old Wine Road – Arrest(s) Made</p>	<p>Saturday, Jan. 23 5:09 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Letendre Lane – Transported to Hospital</p>
	<p>Friday, Jan. 22 10:00 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Harrington Road – Transported to Hospital</p>	

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
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(508)831-2000
Docket No.
WO20P3552EA
Estate of:
Charles F Nicholson
Also Known As:
Charles Nicholson
Date of Death:
October 18, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION
NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Tina Swindlehurst**

of Hardwick, MA.

Tina Swindlehurst of Hardwick, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including dis-

tribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

01/28/2021

Community Outreach
Ohana Cannabis LLC

Notice is hereby given that a Community outreach meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for **Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6 p.m.** in the Town hall of New Braintree - meeting room - 20 Memorial Drive, New Braintree, MA 01531. If you are not able to attend we will also be hosting the meeting on zoom at the same time if you have any questions. The zoom information will be posted on the town website. The proposed Wholesale Cultivation and Processing only service will not provide retail sales in the community. The facility is anticipated to be located at 225 Hardwick Rd., New Braintree, MA 01531. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

01/28/2021

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2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

<p>Sunday, Jan. 19</p> <p>11:20 a.m. Falls Coldbrook Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>12:36 p.m. Falls Wachusett Street – Transported to Hospital</p>	<p>Street – Citation Issued</p> <p>3:06 p.m. Threats River Road – Report Filed</p> <p>10:11 p.m. Overdose/Poisoning Barre Paxton Road – Refused Services</p>	<p>Jefferson</p> <p>Stop for Police, Fail; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit</p> <p>10:44 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Walnut Street – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>Summons: Oliver K. Azmat, 21, Jefferson</p>
<p>Monday, Jan. 18</p> <p>12:32 a.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Main Street – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>Summons: James R. Nardella, 26, Sutton</p> <p>Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle</p> <p>5:25 a.m. Sick/Unknown Central Tree Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>7:50 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Barre Paxton Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>7:52 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning</p> <p>8:11 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>8:27 a.m. Abdominal-Back Pain Main Street – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>8:44 a.m. Falls North Brookfield Road – Referred to Other Agency</p> <p>8:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>Summons: Wilberforce Duodo, 27, Rutland</p> <p>Inspection/Sticker, No; Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle</p> <p>11:05 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning</p> <p>2:57 p.m. Threats Anthony Drive – Report Filed</p> <p>4:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantdale Road – Written Warning</p>	<p>Thursday, Jan. 21</p> <p>7:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Miles Road – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>Summons: Isaac J. Chun-Godinez, 25, Lynn</p> <p>Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle</p> <p>8:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued</p> <p>8:55 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued</p> <p>1:36 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Glenwood Road – Citation Issued</p> <p>1:51 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued</p> <p>3:33 p.m. Missing Person River Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p>11:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>11:41 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p>	<p>Stop for Police, Fail; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit</p> <p>1:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Written Warning</p> <p>4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Written Warning</p> <p>10:07 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>10:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>10:20 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Written Warning</p> <p>11:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning</p> <p>11:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Glenwood Road – Written Warning</p> <p>11:31 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning</p>
<p>Tuesday, Jan. 19</p> <p>4:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Citation Issued</p> <p>5:06 p.m. Erratic Operator Main Street – Arrest(s) Made</p> <p>Arrest: Eleanor A. Norling, 63, West Boylston</p> <p>Assault with Dangerous Weapon; OUI-Liquor or .08%; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Stop for Police, Fail</p>	<p>Friday, Jan. 22</p> <p>12:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>12:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>12:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>4:29 a.m. Property Damage Turkey Hill Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p>6 a.m. Sick/Unknown Pommogussett Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>8:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>8:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>Summons: Richard C. Gabrila, 35, Worcester</p> <p>Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Inspection/Sticker, No; Registration Not In Possession</p> <p>9:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantdale Road – Citation Issued</p> <p>10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Pursuit Prospect Street – Negative Contact</p> <p>Summons: Oliver K. Azmat, 21,</p>	<p>Saturday, Jan. 23</p> <p>12:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning</p> <p>12:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Prouty Lane – Written Warning</p> <p>1:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Written Warning</p> <p>1:51 p.m. Sick/Unknown East County Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>10:42 p.m. Gunshots Glenwood Road – Negative Contact</p> <p>11:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>11:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>11:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p>
<p>Wednesday, Jan. 20</p> <p>8:26 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main</p>	<p>Friday, Jan. 22</p> <p>12:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>12:13 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>12:22 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>4:29 a.m. Property Damage Turkey Hill Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p>6 a.m. Sick/Unknown Pommogussett Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>8:09 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>8:28 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>Summons: Richard C. Gabrila, 35, Worcester</p> <p>Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle; Inspection/Sticker, No; Registration Not In Possession</p> <p>9:48 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pleasantdale Road – Citation Issued</p> <p>10 a.m. Motor Vehicle Pursuit Prospect Street – Negative Contact</p> <p>Summons: Oliver K. Azmat, 21,</p>	<p>Saturday, Jan. 23</p> <p>12:12 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Written Warning</p> <p>12:50 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Prouty Lane – Written Warning</p> <p>1:19 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Pommogussett Road – Written Warning</p> <p>1:51 p.m. Sick/Unknown East County Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p>10:42 p.m. Gunshots Glenwood Road – Negative Contact</p> <p>11:05 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>11:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p> <p>11:26 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning</p>

Sunday, Jan. 17	Monday, Jan. 18	Friday, Jan. 22
9:34 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Old Turnpike Road – Citation Issued	8:44 a.m. Falls North Brookfield Road – Referred to Other Agency	2:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued
11:20 a.m. Falls Coldbrook Road – Transported to Hospital	5:17 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued	Summons: Robert D. Mullen, 63, West Warren
6:13 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Vehicle Towed		Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle; Inspection/Sticker, No
Summons: Kyle A. Wuelfling, 33, North Brookfield	Thursday, Jan. 21	Saturday, Jan. 23
Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID; Unregistered Motor Vehicle; Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Speeding Rate of Speed Exceeding Posted Limit	4:22 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop North Brookfield Road – Citation Issued	9:42 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Written Warning
	5:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued	
	5:50 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued	

<p>Sunday, Jan. 17</p> <p>8:01 am. Motor Vehicle Stop New Westminster Road – Report Filed</p> <p>Summons: Nicholas B. Stasukelis, 21, Hubbardston</p> <p>Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle</p>	<p>Gardner Road – Citation Issued</p> <p>4:34 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Burnshirt Road – Citation Issued</p> <p>11:01 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint</p> <p>Summons: Caleb M. Leblanc, 19, Gardner</p> <p>Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle</p> <p>Summons: Michael A. Scerra, 37, Gardner</p> <p>Unlicensed/Suspended Operation of Motor Vehicle, Permit</p> <p>11:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Elm</p>	<p>Street – Vehicle Towed</p>
<p>Monday, Jan. 18</p> <p>8:29 p.m. Diabetic Gardner Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal</p>		<p>Friday, Jan. 22</p> <p>3:17 p.m. Breathing Difficulty Pitcherville Road – Transported to Hospital</p>
<p>Thursday, Jan. 21</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop</p>		<p>Saturday, Jan. 23</p> <p>3:46 p.m. Threats New Westminster Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p>
		<p>Sunday, Jan. 24</p> <p>1:01 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Brigham Road – Vehicle Towed</p>

SPRINGFIELD – Addressing the critical shortage of behavioral health services for children in the region, Baystate Health will open a temporary 12-bed child/adolescent unit on its Baystate Medical Center campus in Springfield in April.

The closure of Providence Behavioral Health Hospital and the chronic shortage of pediatric behavioral health beds has left many vulnerable children without any available inpatient resources in the region. This has resulted in alarming numbers of children waiting for days and weeks in the emergency room and on pediatric medical units.

Dr. Barry Sarvet, chair, Department of Psychiatry, Baystate Health, who specializes in pediatric psychiatry, noted the health system has been collaborating with the Department of Mental Health on how to meet the behavioral health needs of the younger population.

“This new unit will serve as a bridge allowing us to provide inpatient psychiatric care for children and adolescents over the next two years when our new

Baystate-Kindred joint venture behavioral health hospital opens with a permanent pediatric/adolescent unit. This temporary plan is consistent with Baystate Health’s longstanding commitment to behavioral health services,” he said.

Baystate Health and Kindred Behavioral Health’s joint venture to create a much-needed behavioral health hospital in the region for adults as well as children and adolescents recently received unanimous support from the Holyoke City Council to purchase land on Lower Westfield Road in Holyoke for construction of the proposed state-of-the-art behavioral health hospital.

“I am delighted and grateful that the partnership between Baystate and Kindred will address a critical health need of children in Western Massachusetts. The increasing prevalence of behavioral and mental health problems in our children is a national challenge. Approximately 13 to 20% of children in the U.S. experience a behavioral or mental health disorder every year, making this a bigger challenge than COVID-19

in pediatrics. I so appreciate the leadership that Baystate Health has shown in taking action and stepping up to address this critical need,” said Dr. Charlotte Boney, chair, Department of Pediatrics, Baystate Children’s Hospital.

The planned \$55 million, 150-bed facility will address the shortage of inpatient behavioral health beds in the region for adults, including geriatrics, as well as adolescents and children. Once the purchase of the land is final, which is expected in the next several months, it will take approximately two years to design and construct the new hospital with a targeted opening date in 2023.

“Baystate Health is fully committed to the principle that behavioral health is integral to the overall health and well-being of all people in our community. Accordingly, we proudly accept our responsibility to address critical gaps in clinical resources to meet the needs of people of all ages who are struggling with psychiatric illness,” said Dr. Sarvet. For more information on Baystate Health, people may visit baystate-health.org.

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MARY LANE,
continued from page 9

pointment, she hopes something positive can come out of the situation, as Baystate has said at the end of two years it would gift the property to the town, with or without the building.

"The times are changing, but change doesn't always have to be something bad," she said. Something positive could go on the site, whether it was a health clinic or some other project.

Bob Kelley, in-house counsel for Optimus Living, the owner of Cedarbrook Village, the large assisted living facility built next to the hospital, said the company was very surprised by the move.

He said the company plans to have a collaborative relationship with Baystate Health, whether its closest facility is at Mary Lane or in Palmer.

Kelley also said Optimus Living or another company might see the property as "a good place for an anchor residence with market-rate housing."

He said he believes Baystate will do the right thing by winding down the campus with dignity, and he understands that Mary Lane is a very old building that would be difficult to update.

For more information, Baystate has launched a website specifically about the eastern region at <https://www.bay-statehealth.org/easternregion>.

Staff writer Eileen Kennedy contributed to this story.

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